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THE ACADEMY: A RETROSPECT.

THE ACADEMY has been issued week by week for over a quarter of a century, and throughout that period successive editors have worthily maintained its high character. From to-day, however, an attempt will be made to widen the scope of its interests and influence. The growing public feeling for literature, which is so marked a feature of these times, justifies such an endeavour. The changes that have been introduced speak for themselves; but it is not unfitting on this occasion to say a few words about the honourable history of the paper, which this week appears under new control.

. Nov. 14, 1896,-No. 1280.

The first number of the Academy was published on October 9, 1869, and its price was sixpence. No statement of the aims of its founders appears in its pages; probably none was deemed necessary, for the issue of a new literary organ by the great house of Murray was an event that could not fail to be known and widely discussed in advance. The editorial chair was filled by Dr. Charles Edward Appleton, whose scholarship and keen interest in the advancement of learning found their fitting outlet in the planning and editing of the new paper.

The first column of Dr. Appleton's first number is headed "The Late Lord Byron." It contains an important letter from John Murray's archives, which the poet wrote in August, 1817, at La Mira, near Venice. He gave it to Matthew Gregory Lewis for circulation among friends in England. The letter is a vigorous protest against the attitude of Lady Byron's legal advisers, who had declared that "their lips were sealed up" on the causes of the separation between the poet and his wife. "But," writes Byron, "if their lips are sealed up, they are not sealed up by me, and the greatest favour they can confer upon me will be to open them." He further challenges his detractors to say their worst, and declares his willingness to discuss the affair before any tribunal. This contribution is followed by a study of "the uneventful life of the personage whom we call Obermann" by Matthew Arnold, and this again by a review of the first edition of The Poems and Prose Remains of Arthur Hugh Clough. Byron comes to the front a second time on page 8, where, in a letter to the Editor, Mr. Murray recounts with circumstantial detail the burning of the poet's autobiography in the drawing-room of 50, Albemarle-street. On the next page occurs the following curious paragraph about "The Heart of Byron":

"Few are probably aware of the fate of the poet's heart. After his death at Missolonghi, in 1824, his body was embalmed and sent to England, but the heart was begged and by Dr. Appleton in 1869, while he has obtained by the Greeks, who enclosed it in a silver case. Four years later, after the protracted siege of Missolonghi, a sallying party, carrying the relic with them, cut a way, with great sacrifice of life, through the Turkish lines; but the heart was lost in crossing the marshes."

Under the heading of Biblical criticism we find in this first number a notice of Renan's "St. Paul," by J. B. Lightfoot, afterwards Bishop of Durham. Under Science and Philosophy comes a review of Dr. Ernest Haeckel's "Natural History of Creation," above the signature of T. H. Huxley. The list of contributors to this first number includes also the names of H. N. Oxenham, Mark Pattison, and John Conington. The death of the last-named scholar is announced in the second issue of the ACADEMY, which followed the experimental first number at an interval of five weeks.

Not for long did the ACADEMY retain its connexion with Albemarle-street. An honest difference in theological views led to the separation of publisher and editor; and thenceforth Dr. Appleton was solely responsible for the policy of the paper, which was issued-first, by Messrs. Williams & Norgate, and afterwards at its own office in Wellington-street. Dr. Appleton conducted the Academy for about ten years, when his lamented death at Luxor, in Upper Egypt, whither he had gone in search of health, put an end to a very promising career. Two obituary notices of Dr. Appleton appeared in the Academy of February 22, 1879. The first, by Prof. Sayce, contained the following simple and sufficient tribute to his memory: "In Dr. Appleton the cause of learning has lost an eager and intrepid champion, an active and uncompromising leader. His friends have lost more than they can well express."

Dr. Appleton had been assisted by Mr. C. E. Doble, who now succeeded him in the editorial chair. Two years later Mr. Doble resigned the editorship to accept an important position at the Clarendon Press; and he has since rendered serious services to historical learning by editing, under the auspices of the Oxford Historical Society, the voluminous MSS, in which Thomas Hearne, the antiquary, noted down the humours and traditions of the University during the reign of Queen Anne.

Mr. Doble was succeeded by Mr. James Sutherland Cotton, from whose hands the present editor of the Academy receives his responsibilities. Mr. Cotton has, therefore, edited the ACADEMY for the past sixteen years. It has been his constant endeavour to conduct the paper on the lines laid down

brought to his task his own ripe scholarship and not a little special knowledge. On Indian matters Mr. Cotton, who was born in India in 1848, is a recognised authority. As editor, Mr. Cotton has had the sympathy and loyal support of an army of scholars and writers of the first note. For ourselves, we desire to acknowledge the courtesy and help which we have received at his hands in connexion with the present changes in the management of the paper.

SOME PAST CONTRIBUTORS.

THE extracts that follow are from articles contributed to the Academy by Matthew Arnold, Prof. Huxley, William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Prof. Tyndall. Walter Pater, and Robert Louis Stevenson.

"His curiosity was un-Matthew Arnold bounded, and he was born on Sainte-Beuve (ACADEMY, Nov. a naturalist, carrying into letters, so often the mere 13, 1869). domain of rhetoric and futile

amusement, the ideas and methods of scientific natural inquiry. And this he did while keeping in perfection the ease of movement and charm of touch which belong to letters properly so called, and which give them their unique power of universal penetration and propagandism. Man as he is, and as his history and the productions show him, was the object of his study and interest; he strove to find the real data with which, in dealing with man and his affairs, we have to do. Beyond this study he did not goto find the real data. But he was determined they should be the real data, and not fictitious and conventional data if he could help it. This is what, in our judgment, distinguishes him, and makes his work of singular use and instructiveness. Most of us think that we already possess the data required, and have only to proceed to deal with human affairs in the light of them. This is, as is well known, a thoroughly English persuasion. It is what makes a keen politician; it is an honour to an Englishman, we say, to take part in political strife. Solomon says, on the other hand, 'It is an honour to a man to cease from strife, but every fool will be meddling'; and Sainte-Beuve held with Solomon. Many of us, again, have principles and connexions which are all in all to us, and we arrange data to suit them; a book, a character, a period of history, we see from a point of view given by our principles and connexions, and to the requirements of this point of view we

make the book, the characters, the period, adjust themselves. Sainte-Beuve never did so, and criticised with unfailing acuteness those who did. 'Tocqueville arrivait arec son moule tout prêt; la réalité n'y répond pas, et les choses ne se prétent pas à y entrer.' "

"That proposition is, that Prof. T. H. the whole world, living and Huxley on "The Fundamental not living, is the result Proposition of of the mutual interaction, Evolution. according to definite laws, ACADEMY, of the forces possessed by Oct. 9, 1869.) the molecules of which the primitive nebulosity of the universe was composed. If this be true, it is no less certain that the existing world lay, potentially, in the cosmic vapour; and that a sufficient intelligence could, from a knowledge of the properties of the molecules of that vapour, have predicted, say, the state of the Fauna of Britain in 1869, with as much certainty as one can say what will happen to the vapour of the breath on a cold winter's day. Consider a kitchen clock, which ticks loudly, shows the hours, minutes and seconds, strikes, cries 'cuckoo, and perhaps shows the phases of the moon. When the clock is wound up, all the phenomena which it exhibits are potentially contained in its mechanism, and a clever clockmaker could predict all it will do after an examination of its structure. If the evolution theory is correct, the molecular structure of the cosmic gas stands in the same relation to the phenomena of the world as the construction of the clock to its phenomena."

"A mediocre sonnet is William Morris more hateful to gods and on the Sonnets of Dante Gabriel Rossetti men than any other versified mediocrity, a crabbed one is (ACADEMY, May 14, 1870). harder to read than any other form of crabbed verse; and complete success is not common even when the thought is not over deep; but to express some deep piece of thought or feeling completely and with beauty in the narrow limits of fourteen lines, and in such a way that no line should be useless or barren of some reflex of the main idea; to leave the due impression of the whole thought on the mind by the weight and beauty of the ending; and to do all this without losing simplicity, without affectation of any kind, and with exquisite choiceness of diction and rhyme, is as surely a very great achievement, and among the things most worth doing, as it is exceedingly rare to find done : fall short of this highest standard, and they seem withal the most natural and purest expression of the peculiar mysticism spoken of above."

"Above all ideal person-Dante Gabriel alities with which the poet Rossetti on Poetry must learn to identify himand Readers self, there is one supremely ACADEMY. Feb. 1, 1871). real which is the most imperative of all; namely, that of

his reader. And the practical watchfulness needed for such assimilation is as much a gift and instinct as is the creative grasp of alien character. It is a spiritual contact hardly conscious yet ever renewed, and which must be a part of the very act of production. Among the greatest English singers of the past, perhaps four only have possessed this assimilative power in pure perfection. These are Chaucer. Shakespere, Byron, and Burns; and to their names the world may probably add in the future that of

"Brothers in intellect, Prof. Tyndall Davy and Faraday, howon Faraday ever, could never have beand Davy. come brothers in feeling: ACADEMY, May 14, 1870.) their characters were too unlike. Davy loved the

pomp and circumstance of fame; Faraday the inner consciousness that he had fairly won renown. They were both proud men. But with Davy pride projected itself into the outer world; while with Faraday it became a steadying and dignifying inward force. In one great particular they agreed. Each of them could have turned his science to immense commercial profit, but neither of them did so. The noble excitement of research, and the delight of discovery, constituted their reward. I commend them to the reverence which great gifts greatly exercised ought to inspire. They were both ours; and through the coming centuries, England will be able to point with just pride to the possession of such men."

"That sense of the com-Walter Pater on plex interdependence on each "The Renais- sance in Italy." other of all historical constants. (ACADEMY. ditions is one of the guid-July 31, 1875). ing lights of the modern historical method, and Mr. Symonds abundantly shows how thoroughly he has mastered this idea. And yet on the same background, out of the same general conditions, products emerge, the worldliness of which is the chief thing to be noticed. The spirit of the Renaissance proper, the Renaissance as a humanistic movement, on which it may be said this volume does not profess to touch, is as unlike the spirit of Alexander VI. as it is unlike Savonarola. Alexander VI. has more in common with Ezzelino da Romano, that fanatical hater of

human life in the middle age, than with Tasso or Lionardo. The Renaissance is an assertion of liberty, indeed, but of liberty to see and feel those things the seeing and feeling of which generate not the barbarous ferocity of temper, the savage and coarse tastes of the Renaissance Popes, but a sympathy with life everywhere, even in its weakest and most frail manifestations. Sympathy, appreciation, a sense of latent claims in things which even ordinary good men pass rudely by-these on the whole are the characteristic traits of its artists, though it may be still true that 'aesthetic propriety rather than strict conceptions of duty ruled the conduct even of the best': and at least they never 'destroyed pity in their souls!""

Robert Louis Stevenson on " The Comedy of the Noctes Ambrosianae. 22, 1876).

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fruit of these ten years of high pressure literary action. Of the few who did so, most would feel a strange weariness and despair creep over them among these warfares of the dead. Bygone personalities have an odd smack of the grave; and we feel moved to turn the tables on the highstepping satirist, and remind him, with something of the irony of country headstones, that not only they, but he-not only the rejected Whiglings, but the redoubtable Kit North-point the moral of dust to dust. But of the more perennial part, picked skilfully from among this detritus of old literary and political convulsions, Mr. Skelton has erected what is perhaps the most durable monument to Wilson's fame that we possess. In it we find the immortal trio at their best throughout. From beginning to end their meetings are inspired and sanctified by Bacchus and Apollo. North can always lay aside his crutch; Tickler is always six feet high; and the Shepherd is always the Shepherd. how is it possible to praise that adorable creation but in terms of himself? He is the last expression of sophisticated rusticity; at once a poet, a journalist, a Scotchman, and a Shepherd; oscillating between Burns and the Daily Telegraph in things literary; and in things moral occupying all sorts of intermediate stations between a prize fighter and Peden the Prophet. If it were lawful to marry words of so incongruous a strain, we might classify him as a Presbyterian Faun."

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THE SEVEN SEAS.

The Seven Seas, and Other Verses. By Rudyard Kipling. (Methuen & Co.)

MR. RUDYARD KIPLING is surely not mocking any one in heaven or on earth when he consecrates his work to the God of Things as They Are. He means it; he is responsible for the plain report of his own candid sight of things. Such an erect attitude as some men have taken in the face of outer nature, confessing the whole truth, not complaining, not exaggerating, professors of neither optimism nor pessimism, dwelling in no fool's paradise, not desperate, not foolishly cheerful, courageous, without illusion, without ill-temper, thinkers of the thought that comes by observation—that is Mr. Kipling's position and that his character, not merely in face of nature, of seasons, of vegetation, tempests, hunting, prey, and death in the woods, but in face of men and money, commerce, war, slang, violence, wayfaring, and the exploitation of the round world. He is serious, in the only sense that he would consider worthy of practice, of respect, and of attention; he is truthful, simple, and a confessor of the actual. A little paltering with things as they are not, and he would immediately lose the seriousness that is the very cause of his A little sentimentality, and he would be trivial; a little solemnity and his seriousness would be forfeited; a moment of reluctance, of half-heart, of disguise, of exaggeration, or of gloom, and his work would fall into the old weak feeling, or, more lamentably, into the new Colonial rollick-and, in a word, he would not be Mr. Rudyard Kipling. And he being what he is, securely enough, it behoves us to clear our minds of cant, so that we may read him aright; especially is it well to refuse all suspicion of allegory or of dramatic shamming in any manner. Mr. Kipling is to be read straightforward and simply. Face to face with such a world, simple and corrupt, elementary and too civilised, you will not fail to see more human humour, human sorrow, human courage, and mere humanity, than the ordinary reader has heart for.

It is hard to say that the sea-songs are better than the barrack-room ballads. But they have their own fresh breath, and the others breathe canteen. It is as brilliantly clever to make verses breathe canteen as to make them breathe the icefloe and the salt; but there is more in the sea-songs, not only of the elements of nature, but of the elements of man; or, at least, there is more apparent. The soldier is primitive enough; but the sailor is so, more visibly; and the trader, too, amid intricate and rotten conditions, is yet between the deep and the sky. There is solitude in the sea-songs. Moreover, the movement which is in Mr. Rudyard Kipling's power has further flight. It is sensible on the march, but when it takes wings round the

while. Never before has verse so outsailed the cloud and outraced the wave as his. It is not only that the rhythm of The Seven Seas is almost all written in time, with a fine use of quantity—a full beat to each syllable at the end of certain recurring lines-he has the very heart of movement, for the lack of which no metrical science could atone. He goes far because he can. There are some painters in whose hands no attitude of running runs; it is the hand that is at fault, and has never grasped the heart of the matter because it could not.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling is at his best in a long poem with a strong subject. "The Merchantmen" is among his best; so is "Mulholland's Contract," which is only just too long to quote, and as profound as it is simple; so is that plea for a rescinding of the Judgment Day word, "There shall be no more sea," "The Last Chantey." "The First Chantey" needs a second reading, and repays it. In "Anchor Song," which is a magnificent bit of long-syllable versification, we have, in sea-slang, a passion of sailing all the wilder that it is free from heroic words. The work is less happy in the "Song of the Cities," still less in the "Native Born," of which it is hard to forgive the pleonasm of the title. From the magnificent "Rhyme of the Three which, being alive with its story, Sailors, ought not to be mutilated by quotation, it is yet impossible not to quote something:

The great man-seal haul back to the sea and no man knows their path.

Then dark they lie and stark they lie-

rookery, dune, and floe, And the Northern Lights come down o' nights to dance with the houseless snow;

And God Who clears the grounding berg and steers the grinding floe, He hears the cry of the little kit-fox and the wind along the snow.

But since our women must walk gay and money buys their gear, The sealing-boats they filch that way at

hazard year by year. English they be and Japanee that hang

on the Brown Bear's flank, And some be Scot, but the worst, God wot, and the boldest thieves, be Yank.

Fine as this is, it is a little marred by the sham-antique "God wot." But how wonderful this gathering close of nations, drawn, pressed together in that dark solitude by the very shape of the world, led together by the converging of the lines of the earth's degrees, because the subtle pole is not far off, where the four quarters of the world are The many nations in their hunting peep, as it were, over the shoulders of the world, and are startled to find one another all near at hand. They peer into one another's faces. The three who meet in the Rhyme are all seal-thieves, giving the slip to the Muscovite. It is a cruel story, full of life and full, also, of death. From "A Song of the English" shall be taken a line that is a better commentary on Mr. Rudyard Kipling than all a critic intends

"We are neither children nor gods, but men in a world of men.

waterside of the world it is better worth best might have belonged to the former half papers 'id it 'andsome," says the private

of the book - "Soldier and Sailor Too." This is a poem springing with spirit; Mr. Kipling uses its common words as though they were the weapons, the fire, and the crowns of war-and these, indeed, he makes them. "Back to the Army Again" is one of the songs from within the barrack-room, which, for the first time, told the world so much six or seven years ago in the pages of the National Observer. A man who has done his six years' service returns to the army because he cannot keep out of itnot only for the love of the service, but (Mr. Rudyard Kipling tells the truth) for the reason that life is difficult or impossible to him outside, with "Reserve" against him and no trade learnt. The non-commissioned officer, the very army tailor, know what manner of man it is who has come to "learn the damned old goose-step" with the other new recruits:

"The sergeant arst no questions, but 'e winked

the other eye, 'E sez to me, 'Shun!' an' I shunted, the

same as in days gone by;
For 'e saw the set o' my shoulders, an' I couldn't 'elp 'oldin' straight
When me an' the other rookies come under

the barrick gate.

"I smelt the smell o' the barricks, I 'eard the bugles go;

I 'eard the feet on the gravel—the feet o' the men what drill-

An' I sez to my flutterin' 'eart-strings, I sez to 'em, 'Peace, be still' !"

All this, including the man's intensely English and vulgar bit of final burlesque of his own feeling, is fine realisation. And this is the moral:

"'Oo 's there? A man that's too good to be lost to you, A man that is 'andled an' made—

A man that will pay what 'e cost you In learnin' the others their trade—parade You're droppin' the pick of the Army Because you don't 'elp 'em remain,
But drives 'em to cheat to get out o' the street

An' back to the Army again!" The common, courageous, not unconscious —nay, perfectly conscious—pathos of the men who are setting out for death, in the "Birds o' Prey March," and the heroic rowdy patience of "Cholera Camp," are con-trasts to the theme of "That Day." Has an author a right to such a subject as this last, or as that of "Shut-Eye Sentry"? Not to have these two pieces would be a loss-a gap in the records of dramatic imagination —so strongly has the author gripped his matter with both hands. Nevertheless— Mr. Kipling has done it before, and not once nor twice nor thrice-he is giving away the professional secret, and not his own professional secret, but another man's, and that other man the man whose profession he has set himself to watch, more or less in confidence, or at least in a fellowship born of circumstances. "That Day" is the story of a cowardly regiment in flight; the other poem just named is the story of the implicit or constructive perjury of thirty sergeants, forty-one corporals, and 900 rank and file to save their orderly officer from a charge of drunkenness. The other matter Of the Barrack-Room Ballads, one of the is the most important, of course.

who wishes he had died before he had seen that day. Mr. Rudyard Kipling may reply that he too "'ides it 'andsome," in so much as he leaves name and date in darkness; he may also aver that all he has told is told with a purpose—a purpose regarding young soldiers, or the system of reserves, or what not. True; and we would leave the question as we find it. It is a question that must be asked, and that has not been answered. "The army knows," he says himself; then the army is able to draw its own conclusions whether in regard to the system of recruiting, the time of service, or whatever may enter into the matter. The army, that is, enter into the matter. The army, that is, does not depend for the moral upon a civilian's ballad. But what a ballad! Writer and reader run with the man, their humanity is implicated; and if it is once compromised-in this profoundly human book-in piteous dishonour, it is twenty times committed to piteous but heroic honour.

MR. KIPLING'S SEACRAFT.

BY A SAILOR.

M. R. RUDYARD KIPLING cannot be said to have had more than a very limited experience of maritime matters. A trip to India in a P. and O. steamer, a voyage in a coaster, or a six days' race across the "herring-pond" in an Atlantic liner, does not give a man—unless he possesses a most remarkable faculty for observation-much opportunity for grasping the inner secrets of a sailor's life, or of making that close acquaintance with Nature which is the peculiar privilege of those who "go down to the sea in ships." Yet, curious to relate, Mr. Kipling is no longshore poet. Rather does he show a most extraordinary knowledge of every phase of sea-life, not merely cursory, but of a thoroughly correct and technical character. His theme is as widereaching as the great ocean itself. He writes as boldly of the severely prosaic engine-room, with its tangle of complicated machinery, as he does of a sealer's life in the Arctic regions. He appears, in fact, positively to revel in technicalities, and let it be said at once that in not one single instance throughout this latest string of poems can he be accused of sacrificing accuracy for the sake of poetic expression.

The secret of his success probably lies in the fact that he always goes straight to the fountain - head for his information. What he knows of barracks he learns from Tommy Atkins himself, and his knowledge of life on a man-of-war or merchant - ship he has straight from the lips of the seaman with whom he foregathers on shore. To learn the inner life of a native of India he spent nights of awful discomfort in the stifling opium dens of Lahore, and he would, therefore, probably not shrink from a trip in the foulest Nova-Scotian "blue noser" for the sake of bringing himself in touch with the quips and cranks of a merchantman's lower His mind can best be compared in acquisitiveness to a sleepless octopus, always gathering in something with each of its tentacles. Had he been in the Navy, he would have made a splendid member of the Intelligence Department of the Admiralty. Fortunately, however, for himself and his countrymen, his wonderful faculty for picking up accurate informa-tion is afforded wider and better scope than would be afforded by any number of confidential Blue-books.

There are two thoughts that must in-evitably rise in the mind of any sailor who reads The Seven Seas for the first timewonder at the "knowledge of the ropes" evinced by a writer who is only a civilian, and delight at the manner in which he treats everyday objects and incidents of a life at sea. We have had enough and to spare of songs about "the wet sail" and "the flowing sheet," of "saucy frigates" and "snow-white canvas"-and, most of all, of "Jack and his Poll" on shore. Rudyard Kipling either leaves all these subjects alone, or deals with them in a candid and matter-of-fact style. And he is right. Since Dibdin wrote his soul-stirring ballads, our ships and crews have undergone a marvellous transformation, and no poet has, until now, dared to follow them into their new quarters. The kick of the screw has frightened all the romance out of them. Yet at last we have found a poet or balladwriter-what you will-who is able and willing to paint the truly modern ship and seaman with colours of poetry. the spirit of romance in every sailor's heart, and often must one of them have hoped, as he listened on a still night to the measured throb of the engines beneath his feet, that one day a poet would arise who would be clever and bold enough to express fittingly the thoughts which those sounds raised within him, but to which his rough, untutored mind was unable to give true expression.

From coupler-flange to spindle-guide I see Thy hand, O God Predestination in the stride o' you connectin'-

In those few words Mr. Kipling says what many a man has felt, but has never yet been able to express. Steam has found its poet at last, though Mr. Kipling himself modestly disclaims such a position. He

"Lord, send a man like Robbie Burns to sing

the Song o' Steam!
To match wi' Scotia's noblest speech you orchestra sublime Whaurto—uplifted like the Just—the tail-

rods mark the time.

The crank-throws give the double bass, the feed-pumps sobs an' heaves,

An' now the main eccentries start their quarrel on the sheaves: Her time, her own appointed time, the rocking

link-head bides, Till - hear that note? - the rod's return whings glimmerin' through the guides.

They're all awa! True beat, full power, the clangin' chorus goes Clear to the tunnel where they sit, my purrin'

dynamoes. Interdependence absolute, foreseen, ordained, decreed,

To work, Ye'll note, at any tilt an' every rate

Let no one affirm after reading such lines as these that steam spoils romance at sea. Mr. Kipling does not make the movements of the engines work to suit his rhyme. On the contrary, as any engineer will own, he shows a startling regard for technical accuracy. His verses give a strictly correct description of the movements of a steamer's engines, and out of this seemingly hopelessly prosaic material he forges a rhyme which is as full of true poetic feeling as any which has ever yet been penned in honour of bending spars and bellying canvas.

And it is not only of steam that he sings. In "M'Andrew's Hymn," the poem from which the foregoing lines are taken, and which from a sailor's standpoint is by far the finest in the book, he deals with other elements of a modern seaman's life. Jack has often been accused of having a wife in each port, but we must go back to the ballads of the latter part of the last century before we find his adventures dealt with in such outspoken - and let it be admitted faithful—manner as by our poet in the verses before us. His habit of calling a spade a spade will, however, be forgiven by anyone, however prudish, who possesses the slightest soul for poetry. The old Scotch engineer who soliloquises on all his past peccadilloes, shows a wide acquaintance with places which compare unfavourably, to say the least of it, with his beloved city of Glasgow; and those whose rovings over the waters have led them to ports in the Far East will be the first to acknowledge the accuracy which the author brings to bear on events which may be classed as incidents accidental to a sailor's profession.

There is only one poem out of the fiftytwo included in this volume that deals with the Royal Navy, and that with only one, though worthy, branch of it. The Marine, probably because of his affinity to the author's beloved "Tommy Atkins," is the poet's theme:

"Sez 'e, 'I'm a Jolly-'Er Majesty's Jollysoldier an' sailor too!

Now is work begins by Gawd knows when. and 'is work is never through :

'E isn't one of the reg'lar Line, nor 'e isn't one of the crew.

E's a kind of a giddy harumfrodite-soldier and sailor too !"

Now that Mr. Kipling has placed his foot on what may be termed the bridge between the two services, it may be hoped that he will go still farther and tread what is nowadays almost virgin ground. Let him be assured that if he can find romance in the engine-room of a liner, he will discover plenty of promising material for his lyre in the battery or turret of a man-of-war. A poet who can describe without a fault the weighing, catting, and fishing of an anchor as he does in the stirring "Anchor Song" need not be frightened by hydraulic rammers or Whitehead torpedoes. In The Seren Seas we find the merchant service lifted out of its sordid, prosaic surroundings into an atmosphere of romance and poetry. Let Mr. Rudyard Kipling come now among our naval officers and bluejackets. They and their ships are surely worthy of his pen.

NANSEN'S LIFE.

Fridtiof Nansen, 1861-93. By W. C. Brögger & Nordahl Rolfsen. Translated by William Archer. Illustrations and Illustrations and Maps. (Longmans.)

THIS is a biography not merely of Nansen the explorer, but of Nansen the national As such no incident is too petty, no domestic touch too trivial, to find an honoured place in it. We in England, who have perhaps a higher appreciation of Nansen's exploits and intrepid character than any other people but his own, have not yet linked him with the stars; and in some respects this apotheosis by his countrymen may seem overdone and premature. After all, Nansen is still a young man; his greatest achievements may lie before him. What he has done is good; but better remains, and better has been done. Indeed, at the date when Prof. Brögger and his comrade gave this biography to the world, it was still uncertain whether Nansen had succeeded at all in his last quest-the one where so many have failed-and whether he or his men would ever come back alive. Fortune has justified them in this respect, and now the chief complaint we have to make against their narrative is that it stops short at the very point where our curiosity (pace the Daily Chronicle) is most sorely whetted. For this reason it is not to be taken as the final word on Nansen, but only as a preparation for the interesting, and by recent accounts most lucrative, work which he himself is writing.

We have already remarked upon the conscientious thoroughness with which this biography has been prepared. Every serip and scrap of family history has been brought forward; every city visited by the hero has been searched for impressions; every piece of contemporary history or science connected with his explorations has been swept into its capacious meshes. The biological work of Nansen, little known outside the circle of specialists, is fully described in a monograph by Prof. Gustav Retzius. The history of arctic exploration is condensed by Aksel Arstal. Prof. Mohn adds a chapter on the arctic voyages of Norwegians, and another authority describes the condition of Greenland up to Nansen's conquest. Of such material is the hero's halo woven; and then there is the description, evidently a lifelike and faithful one, of the man himself. We have him first as a child, hunting squirrels with bow and arrow, cutting himself on the ice, and becoming a great proficient at Ski-ing. His upbringing was of the Spartan kind that prevails in distinguished only by extra homely, Norway, hardihood and by an entire carelessness as to the comforts of life. Long fishing excursions, in which he forgot about food, or hazardous ascents of snow mountains, were his principal relaxations from the monotony of home and school-life. Nevertheless, in 1880 he took a good degree in natural science, and embraced zoology as his future object. By the advice of a University professor, he began his studies with a sealing expedition in the polar regions. Copious extracts from early journals give about suicide scoffed vigorously at the plan course, the light it throws upon the character

northern desert:

"The Polar Sea is a thing of itself, unlike everything else, and above all unlike what one is apt to imagine. I had conceived it to be a world of huge ice-mountains, where splendid towers and shimmering pinnacles soared heavenwards on every side, in every possible shape and hue, varied by vast unbroken fields of ice. But I found nothing of this. What I did find was flat white floes of drift-ice rocking on the greenish-blue waves, alternate fog and sunshine, storm and calm."

On this trip the severe muscular training of his boyhood served him in good stead. He became a magnificent hunter of bears, running, diving, splashing through the ice pools in chase of his savage quarry, and taking no harm where other men would have To his invulnerable good health he added a sound belief in Jaeger wear. On his return from this expedition Nansen became assistant curator at the Bergen Museum, under Daniel Cornelius Danielssen, and here it was, first, that he began the histological study of some lower orders which constitutes his claim to scientific recognition. Here it was also that he slowly evolved the Greenland scheme. Before coming to that, it may be interesting to know what Nansen's scientific researches were, as without them the sum of his wide-ranging activities could not be considered complete. Briefly put, they began with an attempt to trace the secondary variations in the myzostoma, a group of parasitic worms, by a close microscopic examination of their structure and organs. From this he took up the nervous system of the invertebrates and sub-vertebrates on a broader scale, and in the course of his inquiries visited the famous marine laboratory at Naples, the birthplace, so to speak, of amphioxus. Nansen was so much impressed with the influence and usefulness of this, the first institution of its kind in the world, that on his return to Norway one of his chief cares was to start the establishment of similar stations along the Norwegian coast. A man who can move Government to stir in the cause of science is usually a man of considerable perseverance and energy, and in this, as well as in his ardent pursuit of microscopic secrets, we find the character of our explorer well displayed. After his return from Naples, Nansen worked out and demonstrated the law of the bifurcation of sensitive nerve-roots, an important contribution to histological science which, Retzius remarks, ought to bear his name. He also studied with success that curious hermaphrodite, or sexually-alternating creature, the myxine, on the lines of the British zoologist, J. T. (not "G. P.") Cunningham. He had embarked upon a joint research into the origin of the cetaceans as sea creatures when the Greenland scheme began to monopolise his energies, and from this time we find him in close correspondence with previous Greenland explorers, with Rink and Nordenskiöld especially. Nor-denskiöld is friendly but sceptical. In the country at large, however, the proposal was received with considerably more than scepticism. Those who did not utter warnings

his first impressions of the wonderful of campaign. A comic paper published the following advertisement:

> "Notice.-In the month of June next, Curator Nansen will give a snow-shoe display, with long jumps, on the inland ice of Greenland. Reserved seats in the crevasses. Return ticket unnecessary.'

Nansen at this date was anything but a prophet in his own country. The money question especially troubled him, and it is now rather a sore point in Norway that Denmark furnished both the encouragement and the funds.

The biography tells us nothing of Nansen's crossing of Greenland that readers of his own narrative do not already know. That it was a splendid feat of endurance and a plucky achievement no one disputes. The cold was so intense on that vast inland iceplateau, thousands of feet above sea-level, that even the woollen socks upon their feet were frozen solid. Storms racked their tents to pieces, the sledge ropes burnt their shoulders, and, above all, the party suffered intolerably from "fat hunger," which no one can realise who has not been fed on lean pemmican in the arctic regions. Nevertheless all turned out as Nansen had planned, and when he returned it was no longer as a foolhardy adventurer, but as a scientific explorer of the first rank. A large space is devoted to his triumphant entry into Christiania and the honours that were showered upon him. An interesting letter from a Copenhagen savant, which is quoted, deals with the presentation of the Victoria medal by the Royal Geographical Society:

"If you should hereafter become Commander or Grand Cross of any order what-soever, you must excuse me if I do not congratulate you. Crowds of people have the right to wear a ribbon; but the Victoria medal is held by very few, and it's a devilish select company it brings you into."

From this point onwards the biography is mainly concerned with the expedition from which Nansen has just come back. A concise but lucid sketch of previous arctic discovery is given, leading up to Nordenskiöld's memorable voyage through the North-East passage, and the wreck of the Jeannette. Anyone looking at a map which embraces Greenland and the New Siberian Islands will see at a glance the facts which led Nansen to form his now famous theory of a polar current flowing northward and westward, possibly near the pole, and coming down again between Spitzbergen and Greenland, bending at last right round the extreme south point of Greenland to the little beach where the drifted remains of the Jeannette were found. He may be said to have fully proved his theory so far as the westward drift is concerned, though he was disappointed somewhat as to its northerly limits. What his next field of activity may be, history has yet to tell; but, according to all precedent, he will return to arctic regions with renewed avidity. To have heard "the east a-callin" is but mild temptation compared with the fatal fascinations of the cold and beautiful north.

Among the most interesting features of Prof. Brögger and Herr Rolfsen's book is, of

of Norway's hardy and venturous explorer. In many ways he is possessed of childlike The Christmas-tree, always a source of delight to Scandinavian children, was for him a glorious remembrance never to be eclipsed. A common little picture won in a raffle is cause enough for a long letter home, glowing with childish pleasure and belief in his everlasting good luck. He was then Curator at the Bergen Museum. One of his first thoughts after returning from Greenland was to pay a visit to the old housekeeper of his boyhood and to own up to a childish fib. One of his last, as the Fram was leaving Norway, was to send her a line of farewell. Traits like this are in a man's favour, even when success and the world's praise combine to spoil him. Next, we see him as the reckless climber, crossing the Vosseskavlen by night in the dead of winter, a feat that chills the blood of the peasants on whom he unexpectedly drops down for food.

The tale of this escapade makes wild reading, yet Nansen writes to his father grumbling that he was called foolhardy. Indeed, he scarcely realises what foolhardiness is, this young athlete. He is one of those men who are stronger than the elements, able to battle with storms and icy currents, to bear with hunger, to eat raw flesh—a veritable scion of the Viking

We are falling into the Saga vein. His biographers themselves call it a Saga—the "Fridtiof Saga," of course-in which Fru Eva Nansen, the Ingebiorg of the legend, plays no inconsiderable part.

Of the translation there is little to say. Mr. Archer has done his work manfully, turning the vigorous Norse idiom into safe English prose, except where the humorous or expletive passages occur, when the result is that mixture of slang and banality to which we are accustomed. In their moments of excitement the Norwegians appear to give vent to a form of expression which sounds to us like nonsense. Only occasionally does the hoof of the translator peep out, and then it is in little footnotes giving the clue to some theatrical allusion, as at the mention of Peer Gynt's "boyg" on p. 237. The book is pretty well free from errors, with the exception of a few mis-spellings, such as "derilect," which may be due to the The illustrations and maps are printer. good.

THE WITTY BISHOP.

The Life and Correspondence of William Connor Magee, Archbishop of York, Bishop of Peterborough. By John Cotter Macdonnell, D.D. In 2 vols. (Isbister & Co.)

ANON MACDONNELL has presented the world in these two volumes with the portrait of a great orator, wit, and ecclesiastical statesman, as drawn by himself in letters which the writer probably never expected would be given to the public. We see the Bishop in his shirt-sleeves, if the expression may be per-mitted, and a very pleasant sight he is. Some of the critics have fallen foul of the

tions into which the Bishop's pen seems to have led him the moment he took it up. We, on the contrary, are sincerely glad that he has presented us with a picture of the man as he really was, and not as a pedant might think he ought to have been. Moreover, we cannot, for the life of us, see that there is anything to complain of after all. The letters teem with pungent passages, and are lit up with flashes of genuine Celtic wit, but there is not a malicious sentence from first to last, and we should think poorly of the man who felt wounded by the bright badinage in which they abound. Of Dr. Magee himself they give a very pleasant idea. Brilliant, hard-headed but softhearted, a glutton for work of every kind, and as combative as a Donnybrook peasant, he reveals himself in his letters rather as an ecclesiastical statesman than the chief pastor of an Anglican diocese. Not that he was not an excellent diocesan-far from itbut he is obviously more in his element when he is trying to convince the House of Lords than when his energy is directed to making some recalcitrant clergyman hear reason. Indeed, as the following passage from his speech on the Public Worship Regulation Bill will show, he had a pretty strong opinion as to the proper attitude which a Bishop ought to assume towards those who disputed his authority:

"We are told that we should govern the Church by fatherliness. Now, I must be allowed to say there is something very one-sided in this cry for fatherliness from the Bishops when they meet with no filialness, and I should like to have some reciprocity. When I am monition is to be flung back in my face, and I am told that I am 'neither a gentleman nor a divine,' and that 'my conversion is to be prayed for,' I must say I should like to see a little filialness on the part of those who are demanding this fatherliness. I honestly desire, so far as I can, to be fatherly towards these men, but when I hear this advice given to us I am reminded of the solitary instance in which a ruler attempted to govern in this fatherly fashion, and that his name was Eli, while his sons were Hophni and Phineas.'

Being what he was, it is unfortunate that his occupation of the Archiepiscopal See of York was not long enough to give any opportunities for the exercise of his great powers of statesmanship. While Bishop of Peterborough he won the reputation of being among the foremost orators of his time: we cannot but believe that, had length of days been granted him at York, he would have made his Primacy memorable for statesmanship of the highest kind.

Perhaps there is nothing in these letters that strikes the reader more forcibly than his intense love of fighting for its own sake. He simply could not sit still, in the House of Lords or anywhere else, when he felt that an adversary had given him an opening, and, suadente diabolo,—to use the phrase he so often employs—he must speak whatever the cost. As he says himself, "When I get a determination of speech to the head, nothing but speaking will relieve me, and I speak accordingly, good or evil as the case may Sometimes he seems to have felt ashamed at his own sharpness of tongue, as editor for not suppressing those indiscre- in the famous instance when he compared | thought it necessary to suppress those which

the action of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill on sisters-in-law (who were to cease to be such in order that they might care for the children) to that of Irish landlords towards their tenants. They were to be "evicted as sisters-in-law, but put in as caretakers." What a delightful bit of self-revelation is his explanation of the use of this metaphor! "It rose to my mouth like a loose cork to the top of a bottle, and I could not get on with the pouring out of my speech until it popped out." In all matters concerning the future of the Church in relation to the State, and in estimating the trend of modern politics, Dr. Magee seems to have been a convinced pessimist. He had no faith that the Anglican Church would be able to weather the storm which had overwhelmed her sister in Ireland.

"Courtship," he said, "Marriage, and Divorce without alimony, sum up all Church and State relations. In the first stage the State is heathen and hostile; in the second, Christian and friendly, often subservient and lavish, like an uxorious bridegroom. In the third stage the State is non-Christian, latitudinarian, stingy, and tyrannical; like the same bridegroom grown old and hard, cutting down the pin-money, quibbling about the settlements, and impatient for a release; unfaithful, too, now and then, and generally disposed to set up a harem of all sorts."

His attitude towards the growth of democracy may be seen from the following extract, taken, it is true, from a letter written during the days of the Bulgarian agitation, but not the less expressive of his settled mind:

"Surely of all governments that by hysterics is the worst, and England is being more and more governed by the hysteria of half-educated men and women. The aristocratic oligarchy of the last century was selfish and short-sighted as regards domestic policy; but it was cool, far-seeing, and prompt as regards foreign The boorish voter who sustained that aristocracy and squirearchy was dull and impassive, and open to bribery and beer; but he was stolid and bovine, and never got into a fury except against the Pope. But your modern, half-taught, newspaper-reading, plat-form-haunting, discussion-club frequenter, conceited, excitable, nervous product of modern town artisan life is a most dangerous animal. He loves rant and cant and fustian, and loves, too, the power for the masses that all this rant and cant is aiming at, and he seems to be rapidly becoming the great ruling power in England. Well, you and I are in our fifty-seventh years. Let our children look to it. But the England of thirty years hence, if Dr. Cumming will let the world last so long, will surely be the nastiest residence conceivable for anyone, save infidel prigs and unsexed women.',

It is evident that the estimate which he formed of himself just thirty years before this was written had justified itself. He writes to Canon Macdonnell: "You are a smooth man, and will get through the world happily; I am a hairy man, and am dragged through the world wrong end foremost, so that my hair is all on end." Truly, his

"hair was all on end" to the last.

A Life of Dr. Magee could hardly fail to abound in good stories, and the present editor of his correspondence has happily not

the Bishop told himself. Here is one which is so good that we make no apology for another quotation. It should be said that the tale dates from the days of agrarian trouble in Ireland.

"An Irish country girl came or wrote—I forget which—to an Irish Q.C. to make a claim for 'justice.' The injustice she complained of was this: the League promised £40 to the tenants in such a house for resisting eviction. 'Now I was the girl that split the policeman's head with a spade-handle, and I got nothing; and Bridget Malony got a lot of the money and she only threw a little boiling water on him. I only want justice agin her.'

Dr. Magee did not in the least mind a happy phrase directed against himself, and is as ready to turn the laugh against himself as against an opponent. He even quotes with obvious delight a criticism which he hears the Bishop of Cork has made upon his Congress Sermon at Dublin in 1882-that "it had not enough Gospel in it to save a tom-tit." Passages like those we have quoted abound in these really delightful volumes, yet it would be unfair to say that they give anything like the picture of the whole man as revealed in his letters. We find, on the contrary, plenty of references to hard and anxious work, and no reader could rise from their perusal without realising that William Connor Magee was something much more than an orator and a wit. Canon Macdonnell has done his work as a biographer well in letting the Bishop show the other and more real side of his character as well as that which he was accustomed to display to the world. Sometimes these bits of selfrevelation are so intimate that we feel a sense of uneasiness at seeing them in print at all. Yet we would not have been without them. Dr. Magee was of all men the most free from cant, and with such a man there is always a danger lest the world should judge him wrongly, or at least incompletely. if it sees only that which he intended for its eyes. By presenting us with these letters, written as they were for no eye but that of an old and intimate friend, Canon Macdonnell has made the Bishop do justice to himself. The result is a charming book. and we only regret that the decay of letterwriting makes it extremely unlikely that we shall read many more of the same kind.

TO TIMBUCTOO.

Timbuctoo the Mysterious. By Félix Dubois. Translated from the French by Diana White. With 153 Illustrations. (Heine-

TT would be difficult to overrate the im-I portance of this book to the student of geography, or of foreign and colonial politics, or even to the many who are interested in all that concerns Africa. But for others—the greater number—it is different. To them Timbuctoo suggests absurd rhymes merely, or has associations bizarre, frivolous, or worthless. It will take repeated surgical operations to eradicate from the brains of most people that Timbuctoo is not a joke. The work of

operations. It will for one thing awake them to the fact that where Englishmen have for a century at least tried and failed a Frenchman has succeeded, and succeeded completely; and for another thing, it will confront them fully with the astonishing and disagreeable news that Timbuctoo, the city of greatest strategical and commercial importance in the Western Soudan, which has been desired and sought after by Europe for two hundred years—that it and all the country round are in the hands of the French.

Since England possessed Tangier in the days of Charles II., and France established a footing on the Senegal, Timbuctoo has sounded in the ears of European traders in Western Africa as synonymous with wealth, gaiety, and mystery. It has been the ambition of every African traveller to penetrate there, but scarce one until now has succeeded. Mungo Park in 1805 tried and succeeded, but with a barren success, for he was drowned in the Niger between Timbuctoo and the sea; Major Laing in 1825, with all the prestige of an English Government agent, took three years in the expedition from Tripoli across the desert and reached Timbuctoo, but was murdered on leaving it; Réné Caillié, a poor Frenchman, who travelled as a Mussulman, tried about the same time as Major Laing, succeeded, and wrote a book; Davidson (the friend of Sir John Drummond Hay) in 1836 ventured by way of Morocco, but was murdered; Richardson, another Government agent, made the attempt in 1850, by the route Major Laing had taken, but died in the desert; a German companion of his, Doctor Barth, succeeded in reaching the famous city, but, for reasons of state, never stirred out of doors all the while he was there, and therefore he wrote little of any value about Timbuctoo on his return; the late Joseph Thomson was planning an expedition to Timbuctoo when he died, but since the egregious Barth no one has reached Timbuctoo and returned to tell the tale, save this Frenchman Félix Dubois, and his task has been made easy, because he was under the aegis of his occupying countrymen all the way, his route being the only sensible one—that by way of the Senegal, which was advocated by Louis XIV.'s great Minister, Colbert. And thus it works out that the only travellers who have returned in the course of two hundred years to tell anything of worth concerning Timbuctoo have been two Frenchmen.

Even for the uninstructed, it needs only that they should take a good map and note the position of Timbuctoo, on the edge of the Sahara, and at the top of the great bend of the Niger, to understand that it must be for Africa a town of vast importance. And when it is known that the Niger is almost as long as the Mississippi, and for most months of the year rolls almost as vast a flood as that great river, and, moreover, that it rises as regularly and with greater width and plenitude than the Nile, and that the country thus enriched and made accessible is quite habitable by Europeans ("Were it not for the unaccustomed proportions of the river and the marvellous sun," says M. Dubois, "there would be nothing specially Félix Dubois wil be as effectual as several tropical about this country"), then surely it

will be allowed that Timbuctoo (and now France) commands and taps a territory that will prove to be of the greatest importance to Europe, and that is five or six times as big as France itself.

About this magnificent and mysterious land M. Félix Dubois has much to tell, which for our part we have found so profoundly interesting that we have not thought in reading whether he writes well or ill, or whether he has been well or ill translatedthough on reflection we think he must both write well and be sufficiently translated for the agreeable result of attention to these details to have been smoothed away. Not the least thing of moment he tells us is that Timbuctoo is not the greatest or most interesting town of that region, but Jene —a name the echo of which is found in our "Coast of Guinea" and our "Guinea gold," for "gold of Jene" has been for centuries an article of commerce in all the west of Africa. Moreover, he tells us about Jene such things as entrance the imagination. Jene dates from the seventh century; Jene has wonderful solid archi-tecture of the Egyptian order (witness M. Dubois' drawings and photographs); and Jene was built by no Negroid race, but by the Songhois who migrated from Egypt across all the Soudan 1200 years ago. And of the present Jenerians M. Dubois says they "resemble a palimpsest on which the first MS. is dimly decipherable. . . . Their oral traditions, their chronicles, and their dwellings all betray their Nilotic fatherland.

When to these antiquarian and historical interests M. Dubois adds others of a practical and commercial kind-such as that on the banks of the Niger grow trees which to all intents and purposes produce butter, cheese, and pastry—we look to see Thomas Hood's mad rhyme fulfilled concerning "a land of pure delight, where muffins grow on trees, and roasted pigs come crying out, Oh, eat me, if you please!" and for a moment are reminded of the Swiss Family Robinson and their extraordinary luck in lighting upon what might be called "Whiteley vegetation."
But it is impossible in this short and

cursory notice to do justice to the manifest care, learning, and love which M. Dubois has bestowed upon his subject, or to the envy with which we regard his entry, and that of his countrymen, into the longdesired land of Timbuctoo.

A RIOT OF EPITHETS.

Vignettes. By Hubert Crackanthorpe. (John Lane.)

N his desire to add another book to his name, Mr. Crackanthorpe has, we think, committed an error. Vignettes is not a book: it is no more a book than a portfolio of studies is a finished picture: it is merely an exquisitely-published collection of notes. Mr. Crackanthorpe's method has been to stand, pen in hand, and let his environment soak in and saturate him, at the same time translating his sensations as nearly as possible into words. In this task he seems to us to have failed. He has

failed, partly because he has attempted to make the pen perform the work of the brush; partly because he has neither the intensity of purpose nor the vocabulary of the "vivid" writer; and partly for temperamental reasons. This is a pity, for Mr. Crackanthorpe, on his own ground—in the dissection of a squalid or petty amour—is singularly capable, and he has lavished immense pains upon these Vignettes. Indeed, the very pains are in themselves against the book: it is over-written, super-conscious—Mr. Crackanthorpe is always present, with his limited outlook on life and his affection for the morbid side. If Mr. Crackanthorpe's nature were sympathetic, alert, abundant, this would be a gain to the reader. Alas! it is—at least, in his writings—the very reverse.

Nature that comes to us filtered through Mr. Crackanthorpe is depressing. He has such bad luck: he arrives, note-book in hand, only when the earth is dispirited and the people are ugly. Other travellers in France and Italy have seen smiling old peasants, merry children, happy innocent girls: Mr. Crackanthorpe has had the misfortune to find merely wrinkled "beldams" (he is fond of this word), children whose cries "litter" the street (his own phrase), and girls whose laughter sets him musing upon the ugliness of sin. When he lies in the long grass the red sorrel looks "dishevelled," the ragged-robin "skinny"; to him an old horse has "protruding bones," the Thames is clasped by the bridge's "gaunt arms," meat hanging in the East End is "old gold and scarlet," a steamer at sea pitches like "a beast in distress," and so on, always with insistence on that which is sale, as the French word has it. Many words, too, have a fuller significance to "metallic," "subtle," "fabulous," "unclean," for example. It does not effectually describe a scene to call it "subtle." In fact, it is this inability to communicate an impression, to hand it on as fresh as when it was received, that has led us to give so much space to a book that is not a book; because Mr. Crackanthorpe is one of the most notable members of what may be called the Epithetic School, whose methods are, we are convinced, erroneous. They do not distinguish sufficiently between plastic and literary art.

The following description of Paris in October shows Mr. Crackanthorpe at his best:

"Paris in October—all white and a-glitter under a cold, sparkling sky, and the trees of the boulevards trembling their frail russet leaves; garish, petulant Paris; complacently content with her sauntering crowds, her monotonous arrangements in pink and white and blue; ever busied with her own publicity, her tiresome, obvious vice, and her parochial modernity coquetting with cosmopolitanism."

Mr. Crackanthorpe has ransacked the Continent for his sensations. One day he is at Arles, another at Naples, another on the coast of Calvados. Some of his fittest adjectives, however, are employed to describe the river at Chelsea.

Upon Vignettes Mr. Lane, the publisher, has lavished his resources. Externally it is a thing of beauty.

LUCAN'S PHARSALIA.

The Pharsalia of Lucan. Translated into Blank Verse by Edward Ridley, Q.C. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

T is now more than two centuries since a complete verse translation of the great epic poet of the décadence, Lucan, appeared. During that time opinions regarding him have altered, not, for the most part, to his advantage. At the time of the Revival of Learning, The Pharsalia was at the height of its fame. Since then, in England at least, it has fallen into comparative obscurity; and though Shelley declared that it was finer than Virgil, and admirers of it have always been plentiful in Francewhere it is still greatly esteemed - its English readers nowadays are few - far fewer, one is tempted to think, than its critics. And yet The Pharsalia, though it is full of faults in taste and feeling and expression; though it is rhetorical and bombastic and occasionally absurd, has yet very considerable merits. Its brilliancy is unquestionable; and though it may be disputed whether the Epic is a very proper field for epigram, the hard glitter which this imparts to its rhetoric makes it attractive to many to whom the more sober beauties of Virgil are not sufficiently stimulating. Lucan, in fact, is the most Tacitean of poets. He is full of startling paradox. His brevity of expression is often as astounding as his occasional verbosity. And when it is remembered that he belongs to an age of execrable taste—the age of Nero, the age of Seneca's tragedies-it is astounding that he should be as good as he is. Granting that the Civil War was an unfortunate theme for a poem, granting that Lucan's philosophy was ill-digested, and his religion, or the absence of it, occasionally childish, he still remains a very considerable poet in an age when, save for the imperishable genius of Juvenal (who is somewhat later, and himself owes much to Lucan), true poetry was extremely rare. Seneca, his contemporary, has, as a poet, all his faults while he lacks many of his merits. Nor, with the exception of the brilliant Petronius, has the reign of Nero any notable literary name to show save that of Lucan.

Mr. Ridley's verse is even and dignified. It lacks variety, but it is never mere prose. In parts it is singularly felicitous and it never altogether fails, save in one or two world-renowned lines where adequate translation was perhaps impossible. Mr. Ridley in his preface objects, quite justly, to the feebleness of Marlowe's rendering of the famous epigram—

"Victrix causa deis placuit, sed victa Catoni," but his own is even worse. Probably the line is untranslatable as are so many lines which have passed into proverbs. At other times his rendering shows considerable vigour, as when he writes:

"and Rome
"and Rome
"and Rome
"and stars and rays, and in the very fanes
Swear by the shades of men!"

On the other hand the oft-quoted

" Nec sibi sed toti genitum se credere mundo

re-appears somewhat feebly as-

"as not for self Brought into being but for all the world."

But, taken as a whole, the translation is certainly above the average. Into the question of the possibility or desirability of attempting to render an Epic into blank verse rather than into a simple nervous prose, we cannot enter here. But if it is to be done, Mr. Ridley's is, we think, a favourable specimen of a difficult art. One word as to his metre. We note that throughout the ten books of the poem the translator has not admitted a single dissyllabic ending to his lines. This is something of a feat in its way, but we doubt its wisdom. Undoubtedly it contributes to the monotony of the verse and thereby increases its resemblance to Lucan; but something should surely be sacrificed to the reader's craving for variety. The book is delightfully printed on excellent paper, though there is a fairly long list of errata. One error, by the way-in the introduction to Book I .- has not been noted ("Nation" for "matron"). As a question of convenience of reference we should have been glad if the Latin version could have been printed side by side with the English (as in Mr. Mackail's "Anthology"), but probably this would have unduly increased the size of the volume.

Lays and Legends of the Weald of Kent. By Lilian Winser. (Elkin Mathews.)

THE remark was once made that it is the duty of every clergyman to write the history of his parish, if only to keep him out of mischief: a duty that would, of course, embrace the collection of local legends, rhymes, and sayings. As it is, in default of any such systematic attack, there are treasures of quaint rural lore which either are not touched at all, or are left to the amateur. We look upon Miss Lilian Winser, the author of these Lays and Legends, as an amateur, and we rather regret it. Had she been a more serious regret it. student of her county she would not so have trifled with great subjects. For look, this was her scheme-to bring together a company of Kentish villagers, to range them around a fire of logs and set them story-telling. A noble project, truly. But the execution? Part of it is good: the guests are described exceedingly happily in rambling four-lined stanzas that communicate warmth and welcome, and there is a pleasant flavour of homeliness about the work; but the tales which are told are poor and not peculiarly Kentish. The Garden of England grows better stuff than Miss Winser has discovered. She has, however, hit upon an excellent idea, and if it were adopted by narrative poets in other districts a number of genial little books should result. For this attempt we are grateful to her, and we are genuinely sorry that it is not better. Her adaptation of the old English song, "The Punch Ladle," is as good as anything among the contributions of the company.

POETRY.

Units. By Winifred Lucas. (John Lane.) THIS little volume has seventy-seven 1 pages and nearly seventy seven poems, so short, yet so self-sufficient, and so full of individual vitality as to give fitness to the title chosen for the volume. The third poem, too, is specially called

" Love turns a year to days. An hour He breaks To instants separate as a diamond shower; He shakes From its dull face a blaze Of pointed rays, Made units by its power."

What Love does to Time, the poet does to the world of thought and expression. He makes evident what was only nebulously known; and his one polarised word is more essential than a whole dull vocabulary. Such a poet is, of course, of rare appearance; as rare as a great seer and discoverer in other departments of life and thought-as a great mechanist, a great chemist, or a great explorer. All the more cordial, therefore, is our welcome to Miss Winifred Lucas, whose brief work has more essential meaning for the reviewer than he finds sometimes in whole stacks of volumes, and who is able, in certain mines of thought, not untouched by fancy, to do pioneer work, and to place her jewels in a setting that is not inadequate to their own primeval

The very brevity and involution of Miss Lucas's poems allow us to quote them with no fear of doing her an injustice. Each page is a completion; and, as the reader can judge her work not by arbitrarily detached samples, but by separate entities, we may well allow her to be her own inter-We find her, as we might expect from her powers, to be greatest where her subject is most hackneyed. The reproaches men have made against Sleep for deserting them are turned, varied, and invested with a quite new pathos by her tender rendering:

"SLEEPLESS.

"With downward lashes, veiling deep Soft stars of pain, The troubled angel of thy sleep Is here in vain; Sad with the wasted dreams that he Had brought for thee.

Oh, hush then only for his sake! In pity go With him a little, who would make

Thee happy so, Away from sorrow, hand in hand, As he had planned."

Even when Miss Lucas is less original in her mood, she has the power to put new reality into the old tale. The common phrases that speak of the dead as "the majority" do not render flat or stale he lines she addresses to those who lament their destiny to be alive:

" TRIOLET.

" It is so common to be dead, So rare to be alive; Lift up, lift up this drooping head: It is so common to be dead.

Of millions death hath banished, Be royal and survive! It is so common to be dead, So rare to be alive.

In another case, a trite situation seems to close in a monumental expression:

" A QUESTION.

"Poor body, sinking ever toward the grave Death keeps for you; poor heart; uneven

Of countless petty pulses; wave on wave Of blood, now cold, and now at fever heat!

Out of you all, what profits now, or aids Where fall at last the deathly cypress shades? How comes the love of such another one To seem an immortality begun?"

The love-note, that comes like a revelation in the last two lines, is heightened, and goes to a more confident measure elsewhere in her volume; as, for instance, in-

" MINE.

"Mine, only mine, and mine alone, and mine, again I cry; Mine on the earth, and underneath, and mine

beyond the sky;

Mine late or soon, in early time or late eternity;
A priceless thing that none forego since none

can claim but I.

Chaos breaks into order sweet, the order sweet of thee;

Indifferent millions emphasise thy dear identity;

And alien charms, like raindrops, fall in this still lake of me,

Fed from one holy river's deep, exhaustless purity.

Against this imperiously ringing cry of expectancy we may set the moderation of lines like "Meeting," in which is given that recognition of the ideal in the real, of the divine in the human, which Mr. Coventry Patmore has taught to two generations of readers:

" MEETING.

"Your guessed-at words I do exchange to-day,

For what you say; Your loved ideal, imagined from afar, For what you are.

And oh! 'tis sweet to change the exalted you For this the true.

The real it is demands the daily use Of soft excuse

And where's the love ideal enough to miss The stimulus of this ?'

An equal moderation in her demand upon the world to come, as well as in her mode of expressing it, suggests in the following lovely lines a disciple of the same Laureate of Love Incarnate:

" HEAVEN.

"Things never known on earth, in Heaven may be For us to know.

But oh ! Before we pray to see Strange ecstasies aglow, Be this our earliest importunity: That those of us who go May lose, to find, indeed, the thing that we In finding, lost below,'

A little trivial beside these lines is the the treatment of sea subjects, and very

expression, we do not say more, of the verses headed "Apprehension," with the key-note:

"I am more in the grave, alive, Than ever I shall be, dead."

But one feels Miss Lucas on her own spiritual heights again in the verse ending

"Tis in the world I seek myself in vain."

In "the world," too, of vulgar ideals and of rhetorical expression, Miss Lucas will seek in vain for admirers of her exalted muse. They will not be wanting, however, wherever temperament and training have given to readers the power to hear high things.

Songs for Little People. By Norman Gale. (Archibald Constable & Co.)

DELIGHTFUL book in every way is this - the poet, the illustrator, the publisher, each must have his mead of praise. Mr. Norman Gale designs his book for a position between the extremes of frankly babyish song - books and Stevenson's child - verses. Children from an early age and up to fifteen are the desired audience, fit and not few. Part of the pleasure to be got from verses of this kind is that of reading them aloud; and we can promise the grown-up cousins and the aunts that they have in store for them a treat on their own account. The country muse of Mr. Norman Gale is heard in these ditties; and they have, as is natural, a relation to the verses of Stevenson which gives that beloved name a place, not only in the preface, but among the verses:

"THE LOST FRIEND.

- " All underneath the restless sea Grief ran along a wire to me; Children, your tender friend is gone-Dear Robert Louis Stevenson.
- "With radiant smiles he reached his hands To stroke the young of many lands; Himself a man and boy in one— Dear Robert Louis Stevenson.
- " Since he shall live on children's lips In tales of treasure and of ships, What need to raise a tower of stone For Robert Louis Stevenson?
- " Samoa nurses him in flowers. For ever hers, for ever ours; Incarnate tune, undying tone.
 Dear Robert Louis Stevenson."

We quote the verses for Stevenson's sake and their own, and for another reason; they are the only verses that can fairly be divorced from their illustrations. Never were author and artist better mated than are Mr. Norman Gale and Miss Helen Stratton, as the illustrator's name is given on the cover of the book; it does not appear on the title-page, nor are the drawings signed, which is a pity, when we know that even this binding—thing of beauty though it be—must disappear in time under the pressure of a multitude of eager hands. By that time, however, Miss Stratton may trust safely, perhaps, to be recognised by her touch. It is very delightful, especially in

original in its pranks with the children's hair, as may be seen in the drawings accompanying "Off to the Sea," "Silverwig's Sight," "The Rainbow," and "Tim's Foxglove." Other memorably beautiful drawings accompany "The Swan" and "The Sleepless Child."

The Husband of Poverty. By Henry Neville Maughan. (Elliot Stock.)

RANCIS is a name among poets, and the tale of those who have borne it, from Francesco Petrarca to Francis Beaumont, has been told in our day by Francis Thompson. Francis of Assisi himself illustrated what Abraham Cowley called the "hard and rarest union that could be"—that of "poet and saint." For St. Francis sang ballads of his own composing as he walked about Umbria, ballads full of his own gay asceticism and playful austerity. Very fitting, therefore, it is that Mr. Maughan should put into the saint's mouth a ballad, which is the best of the volume:

" There was a knight of Bethlehem, Whose wealth was tears and sorrows: His men-at-arms were little lambs, His trumpeters were sparrows. His castle was a wooden cross, Whereon He hung so high His helmet was a crown of thorns, Whose crest did touch the sky.

That is a verse of beauty for ever. It was sung by the saint in response to the street children who cried out to him, "A song from the fool." These, then, were the manners of school children before the era of school boards, as certain recent controversialists may note. The gentleness of Francis may, perhaps, be more influential to humanise even the gamins of London and Liverpool to-day than letters to the newspapers. It is not with the after-effects of Franciscanism, wonderful as these are even in the prosy world of capital and labour, that Mr. Maughan deals in his drama. He shows Francis among his friends at the time the call came to him to give up his station and wealth in the world; he sings the saint's espousals with the Lady Poverty—the lady who "has lost her looks of late." But for the song already quoted the Play is in-conspicuous; it is, however, written and felt with taste and appreciation. Its heroine is Clare, to whom Poverty is "a kind elder sister"; and various comrades and friends of Francis appear in their appointed parts. The five short acts bear the titles: "The Marriage with Poverty," "Francis Preaches to the Birds," "Sister Clare,"
"The Bride of Snow," and "The Final
Seals." For frontispiece there is a striking head of St. Francis, drawn by Mr. Maughan after Fra Angelico; as well as an old view of Assisi.

POETS' CORNER.

THREE out of the thirty-two volumes of the new edition of Mr. George Meredith's works will be devoted to his Poems. These, however, will not appear until the January and February of 1898.

THE Reminiscences of Mr. Aubrey De Vere will appear early next year. They will contain, we are informed, at least one new letter from Landor, a letter so complimentary to Mr. De Vere that he needed some persuasion from his friends to publish it. Mr. De Vere, alone among living poets, can speak of Wordsworth as a friend. With Tennyson he had an intimacy of fifty years, the record whereof will not, however, appear in the Reminiscences, but will make a part of the forthcoming biography of the late Laureate, to which Mr. De Vere contributes one of its most interesting chapters.

THE commonest of all charges against a new poet is that of obscurity. The generation that loved Scott found Tennyson "difficult," and here we have Charlotte Brontë, in a letter newly published by Mr. Clement Shorter, declaring herself in December, 1851, about Mrs. Browning:

It seems now very much the custom to admire a certain wordy, intricate, obscure style of poetry, such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning writes. Some pieces were referred to about which Currer Bell was expected to be very rapturous, and failing in this she disappointed. Obscure, no doubt, many poets are; but it

is another kind of obscurity.

THE name of Walter Savage Landor seems never to be mentioned amiss; and the reader of Mr. Hare's Story of My Life is grateful to get a glimpse of the old poet as he sat out "the grey remainder of his evening" in a little lodging in Florence. He had been ejected by his wife from the Villa Landore: according to Mr. Hare, "she turned him out by main force." He walked dazed down the dusty road, a torrid sun beating on his head, and then, as luck had it, he met Robert Browning, who took him home and tended him-one guesses how kindly. Mrs. Browning told off her maid for the care of him, and the Brownings took him to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Story at Siena. There, one day, he wrote and thundered out an epigram:

"From the first Paradise an angel once drove Adam,
From mine a fiend expelled me—Thank

you, madam."

One is always wanting to be in sympathy with Landor, and just when one thinks he is succeeding the revulsion comes. A cheap epigram on the wife he had once loved, and had always crossed, is enough to turn your pity for Walter Savage Landor into something like contempt.

THE Bookman, welcoming one of the newest comers among books of poetry, Units, by Winifred Lucas, speaks of the author as Mrs. Lucas. As a matter of fact, the lady is a Miss still in the twenties. A small collection of her Poems, privately printed a year or two ago, prepared the way for the present book, which introduces her to a larger public.

The very last literary device (or vice) which we should expect to find Mr. Kipling

using is the pun. Yet he is ever a dealer in surprises, and here in that delightful piece of fancy, "The Three-Decker" (one of the four literary ballads in The Seven Seas), we come upon this distressing stanza:

"By ways no Gaze could follow, a course unspoiled of Cook, For fancy, fleetest in man, our titled berths

we took With maids of matchless beauty and parentage unguessed, And a Church of England parson, for the Islands of the Blest."

The italics, we admit, are our own. employ them in the hope that Mr. Kipling may see his error emphasised, and repent.

STUDENTS of Browning—especially young students—are recommended to buy the little book entitled Notes to the Pocket Volume of Selections from the Poems of Robert Browning, which the National Home Reading Union has issued. The author is Dr. Hill, master of Downing College, who includes essays by other critics on Browning's genius in its various aspects. The little book has been bound to match the pocket Browning.

COLERIDGE published verse in the Morning Chronicle and, more often, in the Morning Post. Ever since then occasional poems have appeared in the daily press, such as Lord Tennyson's "Riflemen, Form!" in the Times, and Mr. Coventry Patmore's "Toys" in the Pall Mall Gazette. While the Morning Post seems to be the least inclined to follow the example it originally set, the Daily Chronicle opens hospitable doors to poets, especially to poets who are also politicians in a sense. To Mr. William Watson it has this week been indebted for stanzas which we find a real pleasure in repeating.

HOW WEARY IS OUR HEART.

"OF kings and courts; of kingly courtly way In which the life of man is bought and sold; How weary is our heart these many days!

Of ceremonious embassies that hold Parley with Hell in fine and silken phrase, How weary is our heart these many days!

Of wavering counsellors neither hot nor cold, Whom from His mouth God speweth, be it told

How weary is our heart these many days! Yea, for the ravelled night is round the lands, And sick are we of all the imperial story.

The tramp of Power, and its long trail of pain

The mighty brows in meanest arts grown

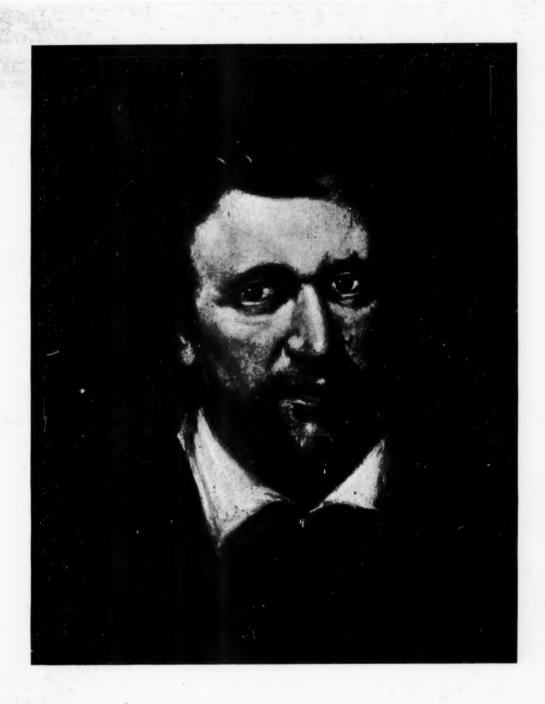
hoary; The mighty hands, That in the dear, affronted name of Peace Bind down a people to be racked and slain; The emulous armies waxing without cease,

All-puissant all in vain; The pacts and leagues to murder by delays, And the dumb throngs that on the deaf thrones gaze;

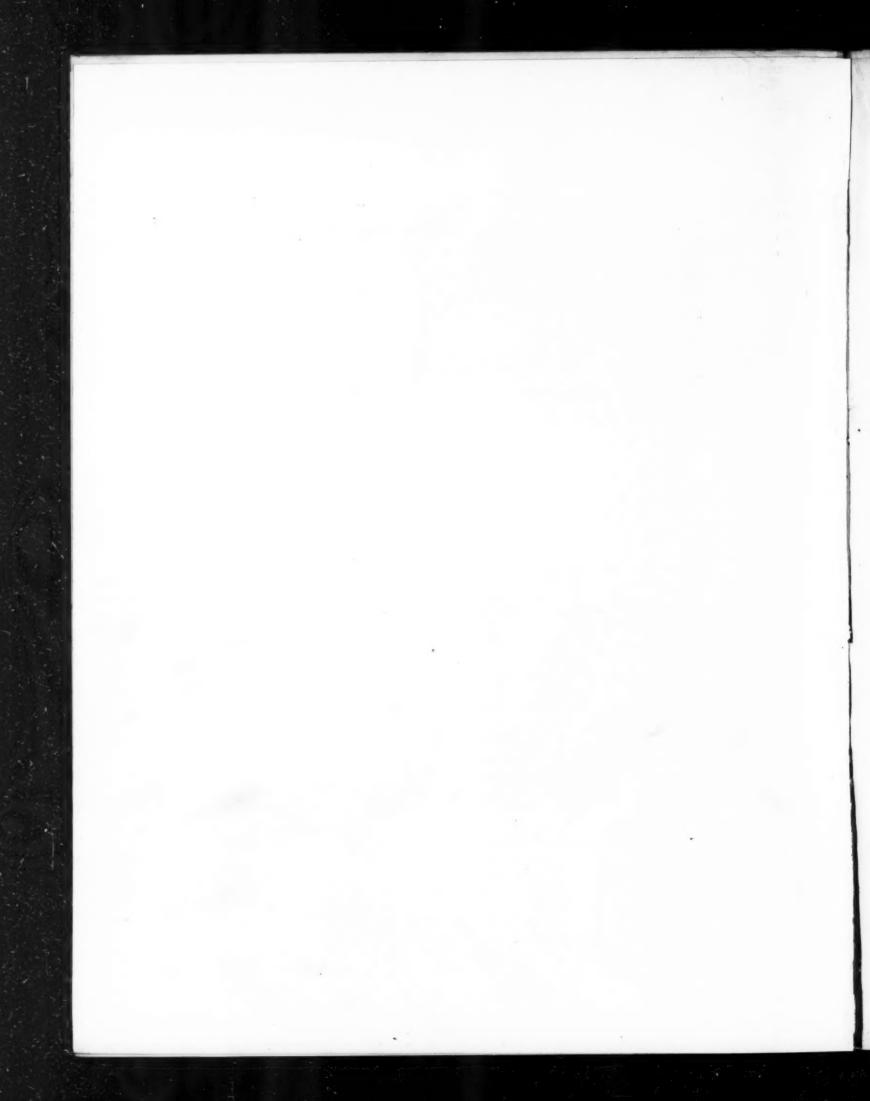
The common, loveless lust of territory; The lips that only babble of their mart, While to the night the shricking hamlets blaze

The bought allegiance, and the purchased praise, False honour, and shameful glory;—

Of all the evil whereof this is part, How weary is our heart, How weary is our heart these many days!"



BEN JONSON
From the Picture by Honthorst in the National Portrait Gallery



FICTION.

Sentimental Tommy. The Story of his Boyhood. By J. M. Barrie. (Cassell & Co.)

M. BARRIE'S new book has practically no plot. This has in some quarters given rise to a feeling of uneasiness, almost of resentment. We have laughed, we have wept, we have on occasions hardly known whether to laugh or to weep; we have been captured at the beginning and held to the end; but we come to make some sketch of the plot for the purposes of review, and it suddenly flashes upon us that there is no plot, and can that be right? Well, the book is the study of a boy—a boy with the artistic temperament. It begins when he is a child in sexless garments; it ends when he has missed a chance of a conventional start in life. The plot of a story must be as dependent upon the characters involved as upon the circumstances imagined for them. We play chess, but with living pieces that sometimes modify our moves and lose-or win-the game in spite of us. It cannot then be surprising that Sentimental Tommy is a series of short Sentimental Tommy is a series—always connected with Tommy, but stories—always connected with each other. The boy lives in the present, rarely recalling the past, rarely regarding the future. Life goes by him in episodes. He has not the sustained passion or the permanent ambition that makes connecting links, and Mr. Barrie does not choose to take a bag of coincidences and provide the cheap substitute.

So it comes to pass that people come into the book and pass out again before the book ends. The little girl whom Tommy, by reason of her hair, calls Reddy, is only with us for the first four chapters. Of her death Mr. Barrie writes with beautiful tenderness and restraint:

"She had been dead for quite a long time when Tommy came back to look for her. mothers who have lost your babies, I should be a sorry knave were I to ask you to cry now over the death of another woman's child. Reddy had been lent to two people for a very little while, and when the time was up she blew a kiss to them and ran gleefully back to God, just as your babies did. The gates of heaven are so easily found when we are little, and they are always standing open to let children wander in."

This is the kind of writing that one wrong touch would have ruined utterly. But Mr. Barrie writes the pathetic and not the sentimental. Tommy, who has changed sexless for masculine garments, hears that Reddy is dead, and cries bitterly. Reddy's papa says that he is glad Tommy was fond of her.

"''Tain't that,' Tommy answered with a knuckle in his eye; ''tain't that as makes me cry.' He looked down at his trousers; and in a fresh outburst of childish grief he wailed,

'It's them!'
"Papa did not understand, but the boy explained. 'She can't not never see them now,' he sobbed, 'and I wants her to see them, and they has pockets!'

"It had come to the man unexpectedly. He put Tommy down almost roughly, and raised his hand to his head as if he felt a sudden pain

"But Tommy, you know, was only a little boy."

All that is quite true.

The scene of the first third of the book lies in London-though many of the people are of Thrums. Here Tommy lives with his mother, in great poverty, and here Tommy's sister Elspeth is born. His mother is alone in the world; she had married a magerful (masterful) man, and suffered in consequence. She told Tommy to pray that he might not become magerful, and Tommy

"He said reverently: 'O God, keep me from becoming a magerful man! opened his eyes to let God see that his prayer was ended, and added to himself, 'But I think I would fell like it.'"

In the midst of her poverty and distress, Tommy's mother writes letters to Thrums. Their purport is always the same-she is wealthy, her boy is clad in velvet, her husband adores her. These letters are her comfort. It is short-lived, for she dies, and Aaron Latta takes her children back to Thrums. Aaron Latta was to have married her, but he was not a magerful man. His character is luminous and distinct, splendidly drawn. / Indeed, the story of Jean Myles and Aaron Latta is one of the finest things in the book. And at Thrums we hear of the Painted Lady and Grizel, of poor Miss Ailie—a sweet nature—and her strange late marriage, and of many others. A précis of all their stories were useless; they are best read where nothing is missed of their weird tragedy or their dry delightful humour, their stern irony or their gentle tenderness-in the book itself.

- But two incidents in which Tommy takes a leading part haunt the memory, and tempt one to mention them. ! One takes place before Tommy's arrival at Thrums. He attends a supper given by a society for the reform of juvenile criminals, and Tommy becomes for the occasion a juvenile criminal. It is not for the sake of the supper, but from his awful love of creation that he makes his story of how he stabbed the butler, and many other stories. "He and the saying about art for art's sake were in the streets that night looking for each other." Finally, Tommy, in his glory and excitement and distress, offers up a prayer for the philanthropists on the platform. No, it cannot be described: it must be read in its place. It is not the only occasion in the book where Mr. Barrie, rather unkindly, first makes his reader laugh and then makes him ashamed of himself for it. The other memorable incident is "The Last Jacobite Rising." Tommy and the boy Corp are the principals of that rebellion, and they play many parts.

The Last vaccount of the boy Corp are the principals of that rebellion, and they play many parts.

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The Last vaccount of the boy Corp are the principals of the principals. funniest things Mr. Barrie has written.

Yet funny though this-and much else in the book-is, it is not for the fun alone, nor for that chiefly, that the book will be widely read and loved-a happy fate that may be confidently predicted for it. In truly and freshly observed, and in the unerring touch that is only possible to the real artist in full sympathy with humanity-in these things lies the charm. And good though the book is, we feel that it will bemust be-followed by one still better. We feel that it is impossible to leave Tommy, as we do leave him, after a failure that is perhaps only an apparent failure, and on the verge of great things. We leave him at the commencement of his adult life, with the hope that Mr. Barrie will hereafter let us find him there again.

There are mistakes. In two or three trifles, the observation is incorrect. There There are mistakes. are some sentences—the first in the book amongst them—which are written intentionally, but should have been written differently. There is a detail of an illness which should have been spared us. It is a paltry list, and there are mistakes in every book, and few books in any year as good as Sentimental Tommy.

The Other House. By Henry James. In 2 vols. (Heinemann.)

FTER a considerable interval, devoted to experiments in other forms of imaginative literature, the short story, and the play, Mr. Henry James gives us a new novel. We can but open it in some trepidation. Will devouring time have robbed nothing of the keen psychology, the subtle portraiture, the cunning evolution that have delighted us so often? A very early scene dispels such a fear. The sweet Roman hand is at work in the first interview between Rose Armiger and Dennis Vidal, with its delicate swordplay, its exquisite indication of crosspurposes, and the clash of standpoints. Like Mr. Meredith, Mr. James has always before him the problem of rendering, through the medium of mere words, more than the mere words of a dialogue. To put its very intonation, the atmosphere of it, on the page—this is the ideal which he often comes so near achieving. Like Mr. Meredith, and yet with how great a difference, as a rule, in the solution. But is it a mere fancy to perceive in the present novel the influence of the one living master of English fiction who could have taught anything to Mr. James? Do not some flashes of Meredithian intensity break the unruffled lucid calm of Mr. James's familiar manner? Does not Tony Bream owe something, in conception at least, to Victor Durance? The Other House compels admiration, but it also strongly compels protest—the very protest itself, perhaps, only another tribute to the vitality and persuasiveness of Mr. James's puppets. But surely in the figure of Rose Armiger subtlety has been pushed beyond the borders of enigma. We are accustomed to the impassive masks of Mr. James's heroines; when we get the keynote, the inexplicabilities generally arrange themselves into a sufficiently logical whole. But we submit that in Rose Armiger the burden of interpretation laid upon the reader is too heavy for him to bear; it is to make bricks without straw. Even after the life-like presentation of what has been the denouement, going back over the earlier

scenes with perhaps more patient analysis than a novel may fairly claim, we are still unable, at certain points, to see what, in homely phrase, the woman is driving at. There is one passage which we can only make intelligible to ourselves by the somewhat bold process of emending the text. We should be gratified to Mr. James if he would tell us whether we ought not, on the eighth line from the bottom of p. 196 of vol. ii., to read "hate her" for "take her." Of course, the change inverts the meaning of the sentence. It is possibly because we frankly find Rose Armiger such a puzzle that the denouement itself, with its sudden revelation of the resourceful triumphal woman as a criminal of an especially revolting and not even very plausible kind, fails to convince us, almost offends us. We cry out against it, "It could not be so!" We feel that Mr. James had no right to enlist our sympathies, even in error, for the woman; to give us no hint; and then at the end to submit us to such outrage. We close the book with something of emotional disturbance, as well as of intellectual perplexity. But it is an astonishingly clever and interesting book, for all

Rodney Stone. By A. Conan Doyle. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

In any book by Dr. Conan Doyle we are certain of spirited movement. will go forward. We shall find the brave elementals rather than the complex subtleties. Ever since Micah Clarke (which in the past few years has been followed, we observe, by no fewer than fifteen volumes), Dr. Doyle's readers have held this desirable and cheering belief, which, if possible, will be strengthened by his latest story. Rodney Stone is, indeed, frankly for beef and action. There is not a conscious thinker in it; such thought as we have is muscular, not cerebral at all. For which relief, we are tempted to say, after a course of psychological studies, much thanks.

The story is written round the Ring. Dr. Conan Doyle has an enthusiasm for the old prize-fighters, which is only surpassed by George Borrow's, and he has endeavoured by this story to communicate it to his readers. So far, indeed, Rodney Stone may be called a book with a purpose, the purpose being expressed in the following passage:

"And so also, when the ring has become as extinct as the lists, we may understand that a broader philosophy would show us that all things which spring up so naturally and spontaneously have a function to fulfil, and that it is a less evil that two men should, of their own free will, fight until they can fight no more, than that the standard of hardihood and endurance should run the slightest risk of being lowered in a nation which depends so largely upon the individual qualities of her citizens for her defence."

The moral to Young England is, Read Rodney Stone and take boxing lessons; and we are persuaded it is a sound one. All Mr. Doyle's arts have been lavished on his descriptions of the two fights in this book. He gives in Sir Charles Tregellis a (too contradictory) sketch of a last century dandy; he gives us the Prince of Wales, after-

wards George IV.; he gives us glimpses of Brummell, of Nelson, of Lady Hamilton, of Collingwood, of Sheridan—but his heart is not with these. His heart is with Boy Jim, the real hero of the book; with Champion Harrison, the old bruiser; with Belcher, and Mendoza, and Jackson, and Crab Wilson, and the brotherhood of pugilists.

"There were," he says in one place, "no finer or braver men in the room than Jackson or Jim Belcher—the one with his magnificent figure, his small waist and Herculean shoulders; the other as graceful as an old Grecian statue, with a head whose beauty many a sculptor had wished to copy, and with those long, delicate lines in shoulder, and loins, and limbs, which gave him the litheness and activity of a panther."

Hence it is that the interest of the book centres in the two fights. Although we have read descriptions of fights and fighting men that had more genius, much of Dr. Doyle's feeling for muscles and endurance—in a word, for grit—is transferred to the reader. The driving race from Brighton to London, between Sir Charles Tregellis and Sir John Lade, carries one with it too. Indeed, we may say that this story holds one quite breathless now and then.

But coming to Rodney Stone as critic rather than reader, we cannot rank it high among Dr. Doyle's writings. The book is always hurried and often slipshod, and never so well written as in the first chapter—a bad sign. So many books by popular authors deteriorate onwards from the first chapter. Early in the book we find good vivid scraps of description—each with a picture in them—which later on disappear altogether: as when he speaks of the London coaches "roaring through the dust clouds," and again, of a view over the Channel:

"A convoy, as I can well remember, was coming up it that day, the timid flock of merchantmen in front; the frigates, like well-trained dogs upon the skirts; and two burly drover line-of-battle ships rolling along behind them."

There is, too, a lamentable want of form and sometimes of relevance. The Nelson and Collingwood chapters, for example, interesting as they are, are totally out of place in this book, and should have been reserved for the narrative of Rodney Stone's naval career, which Dr. Doyle half promises us. The murder mystery is so beside the mark as to be almost uninteresting; and when eventually it withholds Jim from the great fight, we are quite out of patience. whole matter is so absolutely vague that the identity of the murderer is of not the slightest consequence, and the discovery at the end recalls the Adelphi. While we are fault-finding, we may also remark that Dr. Dovle might with advantage have studied his locality more closely. One now has to travel nearly three miles from Friar's Oak in Sussex, where this scene is laid, and scale Clayton Hill, before any sign of Brighton is visible; but possibly the intervening South Downs were lower a hundred years ago, for Dr. Doyle suggests that they offered little obstacle. *Rodney Stone* will not add much to Dr. Doyle's literary reputation, but it will please a very large number of men and boys.

NOTES AND NEWS.

In another place will be found an article dealing with Mr. Rudyard Kipling's sea-craft, as displayed in The Seven Seas, from the point of view of one who knows the sea as most men know their suburb. Our critic is Lieutenant Armstrong, late of the Navy, and now editor of the Globe, and the author of the best book on torpedo boats that exists. This practice of gathering the opinions of specialists is one which we intend, from time to time, to pursue. Mr. Kipling's range is so wide—he has taken the whole world for his province—that adequately to apportion even his last book to experts would require a whole number of this paper. So many varieties of mariner are indeed "piped in" that we had an idea of sending a good reader to declaim aloud the poems in the Captains' Room at Lloyd's, and collect the sense of the audience as he proceeded. Lieutenant Armstrong's criticism is peculiarly valuable as coming from an officer of "Jollies"-soldier and sailor too-to whom Mr. Kipling is just turning his attention.

The "Badminton Library," which now has been cheering the hearts of sportsmen by its periodical volumes for several years, comes to an end this month with a collection of verse. The Poetry of Sport will be the title. Mr. Hedley Peek has made the selection, and Mr. Andrew Lang contributes a chapter on classical allusions to sport. It is not so very long ago that a similar but, we imagine, smaller collection was issued in the "Canterbury Poets" Series. The Badminton volume will be illustrated.

We are informed by Messrs. Cassell & Cothat they have acquired the English rights of Mr. Hatherell's full-page illustrations to Mr. Barrie's "Sentimental Tommy," with which readers of Scribner's Magazine are familiar. An illustrated English edition may therefore be looked for. The Americans already have one. Mr. Hatherell has never done more charmingly sympathetic work.

This month has produced a rich crop of Morris stories in the Reviews. One of them, however, illustrating William Morris's attitude towards the upper classes, appears, we think for the first time, in the Daily News. As Morris sharpened his carving-knife with characteristic vigour at one of his famous Sunday suppers, "he expressed a ferocious wish that he might be allowed to carve the British aristocracy instead of the cold beef." In the Progressive Review, Mr. Walter Crane gives an instance of Morris's attitude towards some of his fellow Socialists. He was considerably annoyed at the publication of Bellamy's Looking Backwards, which gave endless opportunities to the critic to point out the hardness and want of human plasticity which would prevail under a Socialist régime. "I'll write a Utopia myself," exclaimed Morris, when this criticism had been made for about the hundredth time. And he wrote News from Nowhere.

Acting upon the old saying, that two heads are better than one, Mr. John Lane has just established a Bodley Head at 140, Fifth Avenue, New York, from which house he will in future issue copyright editions of his publications. On and after February 15 next, Mr. Lane will publish every month an American edition of The Studio, which promises to be as popular across the Atlantic as it is here. Incidentally, we might mention that the first volume now fetches as much as three guineas.

Voltaire said that a man who wrote well could not be expected to talk. But Mr. John Murray, though an after-dinner speaker with the best, can also write a letter to the Times, if need be. And need there was in the matter of Mr. Augustus Hare's reminiscences. The late Mr. John Murray met Mr. Hare at Dean Stanley's, and, hearing he wanted work, commissioned him to write an Oxfordshire handbook. Mr. Hare was delighted at the time, as he frankly says. But writing now, he accuses Mr. Murray of driving a hard bargain. He writes:

"I did not know (and I had no one to inform me) that I was giving away the earnest work of two years for a pitiful sum which was not a tenth of its value. The style of my work was to be as hard, dry, and incisive as my taskmaster."

HAVING made a bargain, the right course, one would say, is to stand by it, and refrain from complaining, as the reply of Mr. John Murray, the fourth of the Albemarle-street dynasty, rather suggests:

"I have before me Mr. Hare's letter," he says, "written in August, 1860, asking to be entrusted with another Handbook. As for remuneration Mr. Hare received in all £142 for the "Handbook of Oxfordshire," and £180 for the "Handbook of Durham." At my father's death the net loss on these books was £158 and £300 respectively."

A NEW work on Charles Dickens is promised from the Roxburghe Press, which is already identified with the novelist by the publication of Wellerisms. This will be entitled My Father as I Recall Him, the reminiscences being those of the late Miss Mamie Dickens. Her death occurring before the proofs were ready, the labour of revision has been performed by Mrs. Perugini, her sister. The book will be illustrated.

So many hardships beset French governesses in their first efforts to gain work in London, that the "Society of French Teachers in England" has determined to establish a "Home" in the Metropolis to protect their countrywomen during their period of non-employment. The promoters of the scheme have already received much encouragement and some financial support. At the present time, about £250 are urgently needed to carry out the project. Mons. Duhamel (Harrow School) would be thankful for further help, and would be pleased to give all necessary particulars.

It has for long been a cause of grievance against Sir Henry Irving that he confines his energies mainly to revivals, instead of producing plays by new men. Messrs. Dent & Co. will soon have to answer a similar charge; for though now and then they publish a book by Mr. Wells, they are becoming increasingly known by their reprints. Their reprints are, however, so good, that it would be churlish to grumble: rather is it better to remember the sage who said that whenever a new book appeared he read an old one. Having finished with Shakespeare, Messrs. Dent are now issuing the "Temple Dramatists" and the "Temple Classics," Two volumes of the "Temple Classics" are before us — Wordsworth's Prelude and Southey's Life of Nelson-and they are quite charming. The paper and print are good, and the cloth and leather bindings are alike quiet and pleasing, and, moreover, they have no introductions.

It is curious that this same month of November that has given us the brave beginnings of Robert Louis Stevenson's last romance, St. Ives, should bring also a little bundle of flotsam and jetsam from the other end of his career, in the shape of a discarded opening chapter to the Travels with a Donkey, some facsimile reproductions of title-pages, pictures, and verse, from the Davos Platz private printing-press, and a few sketches from nature. These we owe to the enterprise of the editor of The Studio, who has based a special winter number upon them. The most interesting recapture is, of course, the Davos whimsicalities, for the description of Le Monastier was wisely set aside, and the sketches are of no moment. Mr. Pennell, it is true, affects to find characteristic merits in them; but, sound critic though we hold him to be, one is a little suspicious of discoveries that come so late. We mean, that had the drawings been handed to the appraiser with no indication of the artist's identity, we should esteem his remarks more highly.

The Davos books are, however, pure delight; pictures, poems, titles, and posters alike. Most authors (alas!) are accomplished in the art of advertising, but none practise it so charmingly as Robert Louis Stevenson. Not I, and Other Poems, he describes as "a volume of enchanting poetry"; Moral Emblems "has only to be seen to be admired"; the poetry on The Grave and the Pen "is so pleasing that when it is taken up to be read it is finished before it is set down." With one volume, as a special inducement, the copyright of Black Canyon, an early story, was offered for a penny-three-farthings; and autographs of Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Osbourne at threepence and one shilling respectively.

The woodcuts are rough, bold and spirited: the poems are academic. A view of a pirate sprawling on a headland, with telescope to his eye, is accompanied by the lines:

"Industrious pirate! see him sweep The lonely bosom of the deep, And daily the horizon scan From Hatteras to Matapan. Be sure, before that pirate's old He will have made a pot of gold, And will retire from all his labours And be respected by his neighbours. You also scan your life's horizon For all that you can clap your eyes on."

A set of these little books in facsimile would be a very entertaining possession. The humour is not for the majority, perhaps, but the minority would have good entertainment.

Mr. Henry James is not in the habit of scoring popular successes; indeed, he once remarked to a friend that the only popular book he ever wrote was "Daisy Miller." It is, therefore, gratifying to hear of Mr. James's delight at the sudden leap into public favour of his recent novel. For as Mr. James never writes down to an audience, we may conclude that his audience is rising to Mr. James.

Mr. Hall Caine has adopted a new method of publication, which is yet the very oldest on record. For Mr. Hall Caine has this week opened the year's series of Armitstead lectures at Dundee by "speaking a novel" upon the platform of the Kinnaird Hall. The novel was called "Home, Sweet Home," and in the course of an hour and a half the novelist took his hero, a Kentish squireen who has ruined himself by dissipation and murdered his wife's tempter, to Iceland, where he dwells for fifteen years, and comes back at the end to find his daughter wedded to the son of the man whom he had slain. Then he dies. The audience seemed delighted. If Mr. Hall Caine's return to the methods of the Greek rhapsodists becomes fashionable with novelists, the long-standing quarrel between publisher and writer will be laid to rest.

In a letter, however, to the Chronicle, a correspondent points out that even here Mr. Hall Caine is only plagiarising fiction in fact. Mr. Thomas Hardy's heroine in The Hand of Ethelberta, endeavours to support her brothers and sisters in their London home by "telling stories" to fashionable audiences in a West-end hall.

The Critic states that Messrs. Scribner's Sons are adopting a new method of distribution for their great History of the United States, just published. Neither shops nor agents are to be concerned with its sale. In their stead stands the boy-messenger, who, in this country at any rate, has not hitherto figured as the publisher's ally. The following notice to the public explains his new and exalted position:

"Ring up the Tribune-Scribner's History Club, Telephone No.—, any time from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Give the operator your name and address. He has under his hand direct wires to every District Telegraph Office in New York and Brooklyn. In two minutes a uniformed boy from the branch nearest you will be on his way with sample volumes (a complete set if you prefer) and full particulars. No charge for the service. Keep the boy as long as you like. Pay the messenger no money."

"Keep the boy as long as you like" is a tempting bait.

HAVING finished with Lockhart's Life, Mr. Andrew Lang is now turning his attention to the popularisation of his hero's works. He has undertaken to superintend for Messrs. Dent & Co. an edition of Lockhart's novels, beginning with Adam Blair.

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Now that we are all talking of Charlotte Brontë, a very interesting little article in the Monthly Packet should not be overlooked. The writer draws a parallel between Jane Eyre and Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded. In Jane Eyre, it will be remembered, the servant Bessie tells Jane tales from Pamela, and from internal evidence it is pretty clear that Charlotte Brontë had read and assimilated the book in her childhood. Between Jane herself and Pamela, in character as in circumstances, there is a considerable resemblance; and the likeness of Mr. Rochester to the "beloved Mr. B.," of the older book, is quite startling. It would almost seem as though the girl of Haworth Parsonage drew some of her amazing knowledge of life from the pages of Richardson.

In addition to the excellent two-volume complete Browning which Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. have just published, will come an edition, in one volume, on Oxford Indiapaper. This exquisite preparation makes it possible to print in one volume a work of almost any dimensions, however great.

In the second of the series of lectures on "Life in Poetry," at the "Taylorian," Prof. Courthope—the professor of poetry at Oxford—treated of "Poetical Expression." The main interest of the lecture was in the discussion—

"whether metre is necessary to poetry; and, if so, whether the use of metre binds the poet further to use forms of diction, which, even apart from metre, are radically distinct from the forms of prose."

The question is as old as Aristotle, and as new as Whitman. But Prof. Courthope sees clearly that metre is as natural a vehicle of expression for one sort of idea as prose for another, and that Wordsworth only wrote nobly in verse when he forgot his own theories. "The great elemental and universal ideas," said Prof. Courthope, "which lies at the root of all society, extend beyond the conception of science and the expression of prose; metrical language alone is the vehicle of their utterance."

A NEW volume by Mr. George Jacob Holyoake, entitled *The Origin and Nature of* Secularism, is promised by Messrs. Watts & Co.

Colonel Higginson can be racier than he is in his pleasant reminiscences just beginning in the Atlantic Monthly; but now and then he drops a humorous aside. Thus, in parenthesis, he says that one of the only two boys with whom he was forbidden to play "became in later life an eminent clergyman"; and remarks of the burning of the Ursuline Convent at Cambridge, Massa-

chusetts, that on the day after, the family butcher expressed the opinion, "Wal, I dunno, Mis' Higginson; I guess them bishops are pretty dissipated characters."

Mr. W. Tilley writes from the University of Marburg, pointing out that the notice in a recent Academy, to the effect that the Minister of Education in Germany has decided that for the future it will be necessary for female students wishing to attend the University lectures at Bonn to apply for permission only to the Rector, instead of, as heretofore, to the Minister, applies not only to Bonn, but to all Prussian universities. At Marburg, he adds, there are now seven female students.

A Life of Admiral De Ruyter is promised very shortly by Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. The author is Mr. G. Grinnell-Milne. A portrait of De Ruyter, and plans of his principal naval engagements, will accompany the text, which will occupy a single volume.

To be born a Scot and to write of Scotland gives a great advantage to the writer who bids for immortality, for his countrymen see that his memory is kept green. Even though Burns and Scott were no longer read, the Burns clubs and the Sir Walter Scott clubs would preserve their names from oblivion. Speaking at the annual dinner of the Sir Walter Scott Club at Edinburgh last week, Professor Masson said:

"The two eyes of history are chronology, which deals with a certain range of time and topography, or, in a larger sense, geography, which deals with place. What place or part of the world are you fond of? There is no doubt about that in the case of Sir Walter Scott."

It may be that the modern novel has eaten into the circulation of the Wizard of the North. But his patriotism, if nothing else, will keep his fame undimmed.

One service—or was it rather a disservice?—rendered by Scott was pointed very neatly by Prof. Masson.

"When Scott was in the middle of his 'Waverley' Series, the number of novels published a year in the British Islands was twenty-six. About the time that he was finishing he had so developed the novel instinct that the number had risen to 102 a year."

Since then the instinct has continued to develop, and now our novelists produce works at the rate of five a day.

Students of Basque will be interested to hear that the Société Ramond of Bagnères de Bigorre is now publishing, in its Bulletin, the Basque Grammar of Pierre d'Urte. More than seventy pages have already been printed, and the rest is now being copied. The MS., which is one of the treasures of the library of Shirburn Castle, Oxfordshire, has been lent for the purpose to the Bodleian by the Countess of Macclesfield. The Rev. Wentworth Webster, of Sare, near St. Jean de Luz, Basses Pyrénées, will see the work through the press. More than three hundred

pages are devoted to the Basque verb. The work is a very important one; the grammar is probably earlier than that of Larramendi, and is the first independent treatise on the Basque verb.

ALTHOUGH we shall notice elsewhere Mr. Phil May's Gutter Snipes we give here the little note from the artist to the publisher, which is printed by way of preface:

"My dear Tuer [it runs],—Here is the last of the Gutter Snipe drawings, and sorry I am to leave them! Children of the gutter roam about free, and are often hungry; but what would one give for such appetite? You and I smoke big cigars, while they—all too soon, poor little chaps—smoke what you and I and others throw away. Sometimes I wonder whether they don't lead the happier lives?"

The Life of Nelson, upon which Captain Mahan has been engaged for so long, will be ready in March, when Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. will issue it in two volumes.

To note, after looking through the copiously illustrated edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which Messrs. Cassell & Co. send us, that the pictures are the work of a Scandinavian artist, is a little surprising. One hardly expects negro life to be illustrated by a Northener; but this lady—Miss Nystrom-Stoopendaal—has certainly caught the spirit of the book. The pictures, at any rate, will add to the pleasures of young readers, for whom, apparently, the volume is principally intended.

Nor long ago there appeared in the personal columns of the papers some stories not particularly to the credit of Mr. Richard Harding Davis, the American writer. He has since written to contradict them absolutely. In commenting upon this proceeding the *Chap Book* remarks that

"Mr. Davis is merely the momentary victim of the traditional policy of the American Press the policy of making every well-known man as thoroughly uncomfortable as can be."

Such criticism, coming from within as it does, must carry weight.

In some discursive remarks on anonymity in criticism, the *Chap Book* thus epigrammatically dismisses M. Sarcey:

"M. Sarcey again has long since signed himself into imbecility. There is every reason to believe that he once read Aristotle's Poetica in a crib, and got so firm a grasp of first principles that his criticism was often sane and generally spirited. But it has long been evident to M. Sarcey that the public is interested not in the articles, but in the writer, and he has fallen into the trap with the utmost readiness. He is never tired of discussing Francisque Sarcey—a topic far more thrilling in his eyes than the theatre."

If once the signature becomes omnipotent, is the conclusion of the *Chap Book*, there is an end of criticism. This is sweeping. In deciding in future to discontinue signed reviews in the Academy, we must not be considered to hold such a view.

MR. MEREDITH'S WORKS.

THE NEW EDITION.

" Richard Feverel" (as it was, and as it is).

N edition of Mr. George Meredith's works fair to outward view is no doubt a due recognition of the fitness of things. Until The Amazing Marriage appeared, Mr. Meredith's books made a shabby show on our shelves. Not that we lamented much on that score-it was the tramp in outward guise that came to stay where many a handsomely-tailored volume had short tenancy. Shakespeare, too, in the shabbiest of suits, kept him company with these. It was Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson who placed Mr. Meredith next to Shakespeare in all literature; and how one envied Stevenson the authority to say the thing out, and the wit to be the first to say it! For us, at least, remained the pleasure of putting those authors all in a row. But ritualism has grown of late days in the shrines of publishers as elsewhere. Tractarianism has destroyed the tract. From the queen's daughter is demanded beauty without as well as within; and the reader insists that the outer form of the book he is prepared to worship shall answer in some way to its inward grace - the admitted master of living English Men of Letters shall have a master-binder and a master paper-maker to mate him in his adventure. Then Messrs. Archibald Constable & Co. have done all that the public fancy could demand in the new issue of the works of Mr. George Meredith, which begins this week with The Ordeal of Richard Feverel. Type to make acquaintance with for its own sake; paper that becomes your friend; a cover that is plain and good; the portrait of the author, drawn for a frontispiece by Mr. John Sargent, A.R.A.; -these are characteristics of the set of thirty-two volumes, issued at half-a-guinea for each volume, and limited to a thousand sets, the number of each one authenticated by the initials of the author's son, Mr. William Maxse Meredith. So much is due, in any notice of the new edition, to merely accidental things.

All the novels and poems of Mr. Meredith now in print, as well as some matter not easily accessible these many years to any but enthusiastic searchers after early scattered contributions from his pen-this is the treasure that passes into these coffers. And it is treasure that comes to us fresh from the hands of its creator. It has his own last touch. Unlike most éditions de luxe, it is a living, not a dead, edition. And let us say at once that these two volumes of The Ordeal of Richard Feverel silence the chatter which had attributed to Mr. Meredith a desire to make changes for change' sake, or in obedience to moods altered in the

the supposition that Mr. Meredith had allowed work to go forth, and to remain an influence to form the literary taste of the time, and to establish a standard, unless he stood by it. Stand by it he does; and all the more closely in that he has had a vigilant eye for those continual slight improvements which an artist in words may make with almost every careful re-reading. It is said that Mr. Meredith had not read some of his books for many years until he studied them for the purposes of this new edition. He came to them freshly. Mr. Meredith was a reader of Mr. Meredith. Fortunate Mr. Meredith! In a sense, he was his only reader. For as none but he could have conceived those books, so none but he could bring a sensibility adequate to the perusal of them with full comprehension. Every other reader of his has had to lament some limitation of his understanding, some incapacity to reach that demanded equality between author and reader which is the reader's elevation. And Mr. Meredith was not only a reader, but a critic, of Mr. Meredith-his only possible critic. So we have the author and the critic together in this new edition. And after the lapse of nearly forty years, Richard Feverel has passed through this, his greatest, Ordeal

So we judge by the small number of alterations made, as well as by the almost entirely technical nature of those alterations: a new paragraph to break a solid sentence; a "who" put in place of a "that," and (no doubt a capital offence in some eyes) a capital for a "lower-case" letter - the "Eighteenth Century" and "Science" are among the words so capped. The first page of the book is virgin-not a mark made. In the second page a close comparer of the two texts will find the substitution of an "and" for a "but" in the ninth line; in the next line the omission of an "and"; a comma developed into a semi-colon; and, lower down, Lady Feverel's "little fretful refinements of taste" become her "fretful little refinements of taste." That is the page's record of reconsiderations; and that of others is, for the most part, like unto it. In every case the gain to the sentence is obviousa "little refinement" it may be, but a "fretful" one never.

In the first hundred pages, for example, thirty-seven pass without a correcting stroke. In half the remaining pages the alteration made is that of punctuation-a matter in which the former printers and proof-readers of the novel were certainly vulnerable: openly they admired the manner of Richard Feverel's own punctuation in a certain letter of his addressed to Ripton, but common to interval between the composition and the prying eyes. Italics and adjectives are sub-lalienable gift.

revision. Absurd, on the face of it, was jects of Mr. Meredith's most self-denying ordinances. "Who rises from prayer a better man, his prayer is answered": the "is" has now no mechanical accentuation in that memorable passage, and needs it not. "Stubborn assumption," "desperate young malefactors," "skilful manipulation," the three phrases occur on one page, and the adjective has been deleted in each case. That the point is strengthened, not weakened, by the omission is a certainty. Something like a dozen adjectives are dispensed with from cover to cover.

> Elsewhere the insertion of a phrase is in all ways an addition, though the reader needs to have the book before him to see the full fitness. "'His modesty goes very far,' said Lady Judith, sweeping the shadow of a curtsey to Richard's paternity"-"the shadow of" is the author's completion. Into a scene between Richard and Mrs. Mount three lines are interposed. The episode is that in which Richard lifts the enchantress, dressed as Sir Julius, in his arms to show her as of his own height in the looking-glass, and then, with a momentary nausea, meets her eyes and puts her down again. That moment, taken, might have saved him, and the author has added: "He should have known then-it was thundered at a closed door in him-that he played with fire. But this door being closed, he thought himself internally secure. In another passage Mr. Meredith has repacked Richard's carpet-bag. "The carpet-bag," he has added, "might be supposed to contain that funny thing called a young hero's romance in the making." And where Adrian and Lady Blandish overhear Richard and Lucy in the woods, the nicety is added: "They had heard, by involuntarily overhearing about as much as may be heard in such positions-a luminous word or two." The minor details, filling at first a half-page in the telling, of Letty's capture of that aforesaid letter of Richard's to her brother Ripton, has been thus retold: "She succeeded, of course, she being a huntress with few scruples, and the game unguarded."

Such slight and rare additions, and answering sacrifices of a word or, if need be, of a sentence, make up the third class of the corrections under examination. Slight as they are, their very slightness is their import. The last and authentic Meredith text is also in all essentials the first. The revision is a confirming and no recantation. The reader to whom that text is sacred by association has no violence done to him. What he loved he loved rightly, as the author, by his very abstention from change, might be quoted as implying. Mr. Meredith, who in generous youth gave to the world an imperishable literature, in full maturity of judgment confirms the now in-

ACADEMY PORTRAITS.

I.—BEN JONSON.

TWO hundred and fifty-nine years ago the mortal part of him was buried in the Abbey. Scholar, poet, playwright, soldier, he took abundant refreshment from life-and digested it. Robust in body and brain, he used them robustiously, pitting his headstrong genius against the world. "By 'tis good, and if you like 't, you may," he cried in the epilogue to one of his plays. Comedies, dramas, masques, epistles, epigrams, epitaphs, he succeeded in all. Lyrics flash from the pages of his plays like strayed sunbeams in a wood. When his brain clamoured for fuller expression he retired from the world, like a Greater, and lived solitary for a while. But he returned. London was his inspiration, and it was London only that could feed the crucible of that full-bodied intellect. Those nights at the tavern, what were they without the roar of his wit?

"What things have we seen Done at the Mermaid?

A good hater, ever a fighter, yet he exercised "a demonic personal fascination." Great talker, great drinker, great worker, a whirlwind friend, a magnificent enemy, he was the best abused man of letters in London. He had humour even when himself was concerned. Did he not speak of his "mountain belly" and "rocky face"? Behold the rocky lineaments in our picture, and the curly hair that goes with strength. It is the face of a Man. How meagre look our little freshets of prose beside the torrential eloquence of this great Elizabethan! His climaeteric passed, palsy and dropsy fastened so cruelly upon him that for three years he could not leave his room; but he accepted the worse fate with the rollicking complacency with which he had taken the better. Other troubles, too, fell upon him. A fire swallowed the bulk of his books, and he himself "devoured" others-his own way of announcing that he sold them for bread. In those days of physical inaction the ageing Humanist could look back upon a crowded and jolly life, not altogether good, and not wholly naughty. He had killed his man twice. First, when he went soldiering in the Low Countries, where he slew one of the enemy in single combat "in the face of both the campes." His other victim was an actor, for which offence he was branded in the thumb. He explained to Drummond of Hawthornden (imagine the rich plausibility of his defence) that the quarrel was not of his own seeking, and that his opponent's sword was ten inches longer than his own, O, Ben! where were the seconds? As his

tavern he was King. His subjects were the wits and poets of the age.

"He loved Shakspere on this side idolatry as much as any." But Ben was not a good husband. "A shrew, but honest," is his description of his wife.

He died in the summer of 1637, and was buried in the Poets' Corner. Let us hope that, like Michael Drayton, his neighbour in the Abbey, "he exchanged his Laurell for a Crowne of Glorye." Because of its simplicity his monument is the most distinguished there. The brevity of the inscription was accidental. England subscribed for a majestic monument. But Public Events or Something hindered its erection, and Ben would have gotten only a plain slab had it not been that an Indignant Passer-By, who happened to be in the Abbey that summer morning of 1637, gave the workmen eighteenpence to carve upon the trivial tomb the words-"O rare Ben Jonson."

THE LYRIC POETS OF GREECE.

THE little book in which Mr. Francis Brooks has collected such remaining fragments of the Greek Lyric poets as seem to him especially noteworthy, and translated them into unassuming prose, is one to make the scholar sigh. And this by no fault of Mr. Brooks, who has done his work with care and patience, although now and then, as in case of the single fragment—a mere halfdozen words-of Lamprocles, his selections scarcely justify their inclusion by their importance or interest. Our sorrow is stirred by this fresh reminder of the loss which literature has sustained by the entire disappearance of well-nigh the whole of the lyric poetry of Greece. Never, perhaps, in the history of the human race has so much vivid verse been poured forth in a given period as was poured forth in the two centuries between the early Olympiads and the Persian invasion. For all occasions there was the appointed song, and the song writer ready to provide it. There was never a banquet, a vine-dressing, a vintage, a marriage feast or a harvest without its accompaniment of verse. The names and the fame of many of these poets have come down to us, poets who sought out and discovered the metric channels in which human emotion ran for succeeding ages, though we may infer that even the names of the immense majority are lost for ever. From the Roman poets such as Catullus and Horace we catch some reflection of the splendour which had already passed away from Greece: Archilochus, Alcaeus, Simonides, Sappho-whom Aristotle was not unwilling to rank with Homer-are names that live. But the sad health declined, his fame grew. At the truth is, that their works have perished; that

nought but fragments remain to tantalise us with the suggestion of a beauty we can never see. We know that Archilochus drove the father of his Neobule to suicide by his lampoons; but we can only conjecture the satire he used. We know that Tyrtaeus heartened the men of his adopted Sparta and turned the tide of victory against the Messenians with his song. But we have only here and there a splinter of his verses whereby to fortify our judgment of him. We know that burning Sappho loved and sang in Lesbos; nine books of her songs were collected by the Greeks of a later age. But nearly all are lost, enough, however, remaining to convince us of our irreparable loss, notably the hymn to Aphrodite, included by Mr. Brooks in his collection, and exquisitely rendered by Mr. J. A. Symonds in the lines beginning

"Glittering-throned, undying Aphrodite."

With the single exception of Pindar, no Greek lyric poet is known to us in a complete edition of even a section of his works.

It is to a German scholar that we owe whatever we know of the Greek lyric poets. The Poetae Lyrici Graeci of Bergk-upon which Mr. Brooks has avowedly drawn for his material-is one of the most amazing instances of literary research. turned with his critical spade the whole field of classical literature, finding here a stanza, there a chance quotation, now and again a poem more or less complete. With some aid from the discoveries of his predecessors, Bergk collected in his three famous volumes all that we may ever expect to know of a literature which was the very life of Greece. A single instance of this painstaking research may suffice. Alcaeus loved Sappho, and addressed, we may suppose, many an Alcaic to his mistress's eyebrows. But one single fragment survives, thus translated by Mr. Brooks: "Violet-weaving, pure, soft-smiling Sappho, something I wish to say, but shame prevents me." By a strange chance we have also a fragment of Sappho's answer, written in the Alcaic measure, as Alcaeus had written in the Sapphie: "If thou hadst a desire for things good and right, and if thy tongue were not planning to speak something ill, shame would not hold down thy eyes, but thou wouldst speak thereon openly." (There is no fault to find with the translation, yet one shivers at the passing of Greek verse to English prose.) Now the latter of these has been preserved and cited by Aristotle (Rhet. 1-9) to illustrate the signs of shame; while the former was dug from the dustheap of Hephaestion, who quoted it to drive home his uninteresting views on the dodecasyllabic Alcaic. How many Hephaestions would one give for one of those nine lost books of Sappho!

BEN JONSON'S LYRICS.

MANY people who, to their loss, cannot read an epic or a "long" poem— Browning's Ring and the Book, for instanceand the many who cannot read a play, will still read songs and lyrics with delight. By these Ben Jonson is beloved for some four or five fragments of verse which, in the bulk of his work as a dramatist, might almost escape notice. Chief among them is, of course, the celebrated epitaph on Mary, Countess of Pembroke, the mother of that William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, to whom (as Mr. W. H.) some maintain Shakspere wrote his sonnets:

" Underneath this sable hearse Lies the subject of all verse, Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother; Death! ere thou hast slain another. Learn'd and fair and good as she, Time shall throw a dart at thee.'

It is impossible to believe, in spite of any evidence, that these verses were not written by Jonson. Comment on them would be superfluous, criticism at once impertinent and impossible. Suffice it that they remain imperishable as, perhaps, the most exquisite epitaph in the English language.

The epitaph on Elizabeth L. H. has lines of wonderful beauty in it, and stands only

second to this:

"Wouldst thou read what man may say In a little? Reader, stay. Underneath this stone doth lie As much beauty as could die: Which in life did harbour give To more virtue than doth live. If at all she had a fault. Leave it buried in this vault. One name was Elizabeth; The other, let it sleep in death, Fitter, when it died to tell, Than that it lived at all. Farewell!"

The well-known epigram-

"Thy praise and dispraise is to me alike: One doth not stroke me nor the other strike "

is a mere verbal conceit, and the familiar "Drink to me only with thine eyes" does not, perhaps, deserve to the full the reputation it has obtained. "Come, leave the loathed stage," on the other hand, is magnificent. There is a delightful poem, too, beginning-

"Weep with me, all you that read This little story; And know, for whom a tear you shed, Death's self is sorry "-

which has at once the exquisite simplicity and the tragic pathos which are the distinguishing features of Jonson's lyrics. These, and a few others, are known through anthologies; but how many people are there who know Underwoods as a whole? How many to whom the name recalls any name save Stevenson's? Perhaps a reprint | winking to the assistants."

of that volume and The Forest would do more to increase the general popularity of Ben Jonson than anything else.

GOGUELAT.

To what extent Stevenson's last romance "St. Ives," now beginning in the Pall Mall Magazine, is complete we know not, but were this the sole instalment, were these three chapters all that that brave invention devised before death darkened it for ever, we have something to take hold of and prize-we have Goguelat. These three opening chapters could well stand alone as the story of Goguelat, his infamous life, his glorious death. "How often have I seen it," says the prisoner Champdivers, who tells the tale, "that the most unpardonable fellow makes the happiest exit!" Goguelat's exit sets the standard. He lived a braggart and a bully, though as courageous in battle as Napoleon, who decorated his breast, could wish: he died a gentleman. Romance has not his counterpart. The duel grew from gross words spoken of the young girl whose eyes brimmed with sympathy for Champdivers. Goguelat marked it in the day, and at evening he turned the scene to farce. There were no weapons but the two halves of a pair of scissors strapped each to a stick with resined twine. The prisoners were pledged to secrecy whatever was the issue. At night, between the rounds of the guard, the two men fought, stripped to the waist.

Goguelat fell mortally pierced, and from that moment was transformed-transfigured.

"I ran to my fallen adversary, kneeled by him and could only sob his name. He bade me compose myself. 'You have given me the key of the fields, comrade,' said he; 'sans ran-

It is magnificent. Goguelat lay there striving not to groan, till the guards came and found him. They summoned the other prisoners, who emerged sleepily from their beds, Champdivers among them, the picture of surprise and consternation. "As Goguelat we raised and laid upon a stretcher, he cried to us a cheerful and blasphemous farewell." "There was never," continues his slayer, "any talk of a recovery, and no time was lost in getting the man's deposition. He gave but the one account of it, that he had committed suicide because "-this is in the grand manner, if aught ever was-because he was sick of seeing so many Englishmen.

The doctor vowed it was impossible, the nature and direction of the wound forbidding it. Goguelat replied that he was more ingenious than the others thought for, and had propped up the weapon in the ground and fallen on the point-'just like Nebuchadnezzar,' he added,

Further information could not be gained; the prisoners told all the same tale of ignorance, and the weapon had ceased to

"A little resined twine," says Champdrivers gaily, "was perhaps blowing about in the castle gutters; some bits of broken stick may have trailed in corners; and behold in the pleasant air of the morning a dandy prisoner trimming his nails with a pair of seissors!"

Before the end Goguelat asked to take leave of his comrades one by one. Champdivers first.

"He held out his arms as if to embrace me. I drew near with incredible shrinkings. I surrendered myself to his arms with overwhelming disgust. But he only drew my ear down to his lips. 'Trust me,' he whispered. 'Je suis bon bougre, moi. I'll take it to hell with me, and tell the devil!' Why should I go on to reproduce his grossness and trivialities? All that he thought at that hour was even noble, though he could not clothe it otherwise than in the language of a brutal farce. Presently he bade me call the doctor; and, when that officer had come in, raised a little up in his bed, pointed first to himself and then to me, who stood weeping by his side, and several times repeated the expression, 'Frinds-frinds-dam frinds!'"

So died Goguelat.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DANTE'S REFERENCE TO SARDANAPALUS. 15, Kent-terrace; Nov. 10, 1896.

Pompeo Venturi and G. A. Volpi, in their instructive annotations to Dante's Commedia (Zapata de Cisneros edition), whether from oversight or some other motive, are silent as to the origin of the two lines in the Paradiso in which allusion is made to Sardanapalus and his wicked ways; but Machiavelli evidently had those lines in his mind when, referring to the poet's repeated onslaughts on his native city, he says that Dante was an excellent man and of sound judgment "eccetto che dove egli ebbe a ragionar della patria sua la quale perseguitò con ogni specie d'ingiuria; e non potendo altro fare che infamarla, accusò quella d' ogni vizio (the italics are mine) e questo fece non solo in una parte della sua Cantica ma in tutta, e diversamente e in diversi modi; tanto l' offese l'ingiuria dell' esilio, tanta vendetta ne desiderava." Further on in the same passage it is amusing to notice the tone of contempt in which the author of the Mandragola alludes to the poet's ancestor Cacciaguida comfortably sheltered in the planet Mars when so many Florentine worthies are stewing in Hell. "Cinque cittadini fiorentini intra i ladroni e quel suo Cacciaguida in paradiso!" Machiavelli might have added that but for the spirit of vindictiveness which stimulated Dante some of the finest passages in his poem would never have been written.

THOMAS DELTA.

BOOK REVIEWS REVIEWED.

The Seven Seas.

THE Westminster rises from the arm-chair in which it has been reading Mr. Kipling's new collection of poems, The Seven Kipling's new collection of poems, The Seven Seas (Methuen), with a sense of being put on its defence. It has "never killed anything human," it defiantly admits, and is generally conscious of a life misspent. The book is "a gallant, audacious attack upon the smugs," and the writer in the Westminster will stand up for his order. Westminster will stand up for his order. He finds, then, Mr. Kipling's "literary manners a little loud," detects a "kind of inverted pedantry in his strange and technical puzzle-words," and tells him straight that his view of life is "a trifle lurid and a trifle monotonous." Nevertheless, he is left gasping at the amazing display of vitality in The Seven Seas. At that point he falls into line with the rest. The Daily News critic goes fairly off his head with enthusiasm: the mere copying out for the Press of the billowy sea-song intoxicates him. To him it means, this poetry, little less than the staying of national degeneration. Mr. Chevalier is pointed out (by the Standard too) as the man with the manifest mission to introduce these songs to the widest public. Try, it suggests, "The Liner she's a Lady" down at Portsmouth. There is a difference of opinion as to the quality of the new series of Barrack-room Ballads!" They are as good as anything of the kind that Mr. Kipling has published. . . . " (Standard); "... there is a considerable amount of verse in the present collection which a proper regard for his reputation might have prevented Mr. Kipling from including" (Morning Post). The Pall Mall sees traditional doggerel beneath the surface. The poems most generally quoted are "The King," "M'Andrew's Hymn," and "A Song of the English," the model of which, Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women," no one fails to score full marks over.

Sentimental Tommy.

"A work of genius in a sense which would not apply to a dozen Little Ministers" is the phrase with which the Pall Mall greets Mr. Barrie's Sentimental Tommy. The St. James's discerns a Barrie-blend: "The creator of Thrums and the clever journalist of . . . My Lady Nicotine" collaborate. Both critics gently chide the author for the unseasonable intrusion here and there of that "terrible brand of jocular familiarity" which besets the weaker "Kailyard" kind. The British Review is almost alone in the discovery that the story "does not ring true"; which it conceives to be a consequence of "treating all the elements [of a great romance] as through an inverted telescope": the mixture of metaphors is our own. Mr. Barrie is further described as "technically more artistic than Sir Walter Scott," and "the most unreal of Scottish writers of fiction." The Athenœum treats the book much as Mr. Barrie is said to have treated the aforesaid elements; while the Speaker is almost reverential. "Extraordinary originality"; "wonderful merits . . . in a degree almost unexampled us to add sixteen additional pages.

in modern literature"; "its power is astounding"—such phrases abound. "Finally," adds the Speaker, "there are passages of such rare literary beauty that we seem to be making the acquaintance of a new master of style.

Charlotte Brontë and her Circle.

This work has on every hand been welcomed as a valuable footnote to history; and Mr. Clement Shorter is not only complimented upon the industry and tact which have made it possible for him to present to the world a number of letters by, or about, these persons of perennial charm, but is generally acquitted of the various misde-meanours into which biographers, especially in this day of documentary Lives, are apt to fall. "Mr. Shorter seems to have gleaned the field of the last straw," says the Saturday. "The sanest and most satisfactory book that has appeared about the Brontës in this generation," says the St. James's; and the Westminster, after echoing the praise, emphasises the conclusions in which Mr. Shorter differs from Mrs. Gaskell. The Pall Mall holds up to ridicule the epistolary style of the heroine -"so gloriously priggish and determinedly observant"; but Mrs. Meynell, in the Bookman, sees the matter in another light: "The greater number of her letters have the most curious value to all who think her style . . . worthy of interest; for they prove again how execrable was the vintage of the English gathered in her day. . The Times regrets the publication of certain letters—of some as being stiff and con-strained in consequence of the relations between the writer and her correspondent; of others as illustrating "a Charlotte's character . . not without a touch of something hoydenish and ill-bred."

Life of Gordon.

Two points have been generally singled out for comment by reviewers of Mr. Boulger's Life of General Gordon (Fisher Unwin). The first is the episode of his quarrel with Li Hung Chang, of which the story is now, for the first time, made accurately known; the second, a vigorous indictment of Lord Cromer (Sir Evelyn Baring) and Lord Wolseley as responsible, the former by his seven weeks' rejection of Gordon's assistance, the other by a prudence which the biographer does not scruple to style timidity, for the final catastrophe. "The book," says a writer in the National "The book," says a writer in the National Observer, "is . . . obviously the work of a practised literary hand," which hand is (by the Daily News) recommended to write up in a conspicuous place the dictum, "A biographer who says everything says nothing.

NOTICE.

Last week it was intimated that with the present number (the first of the new issue) the ACADEMY would be enlarged. The intention was to increase the pages to thirty-two. This week, however, the demand on our advertisement space has compelled

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

ARISTOTELIAN SOCIETY .- At a meeting held November 2, Mr. B. Bosanquet, president, in the chair, Miss L. M. Jackson was elected a member. The President delivered the annual address on the subject, "The Relation of Sociology to Philosophy." The aims and methods of sociology or social physics, as conceived by Comte and his followers, were contrasted with those of social or political philo-sophy, as it has existed among the Greek thinkers and those who have adopted their conceptions. The preoccupation of sociology with causal process rather than with meaning or value, was then made the basis of a comparison between the relation of social science to social philosophy and the relation of psychology to logic and other branches of philosophy proper. It was further pointed out that sociology seems to be developing as a psychological science, in which event the relations compared above would prove to be not merely analogous, but the same. In conclusion, the question was raised whether the exclusion of philosophical "tendency," which belongs to sociology or psychology alike in as far as they claim to be natural sciences, would ultimately maintain itself.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN LITERARY SOCIETY .- At a meeting held November 3, E. A. Cazalet, Esq., president, in the chair, Mr. F. P. Marchant read a paper on the popular Russian poet, "Nekrassov." Nicolai Nekrassov, who was born in the Vinnitski district, Podolia, on November 22, 1821, has been called "the Russian Crabbe," as he is a realist who depicts life as it is; but he is more melodious than the Aldborough parson. Prof. Saintsbury declares that Crabbe lacks music, and, therefore, is not a poet; Nekrassov tunes the lyre, though to the plaintive minor key of the Slav. Nekrassov has written Several patriotic poems, among others "The Unhappy Ones" and "The Schoolboy." There is a strong vein of satire in our author, displayed in "A Moral Man," "The Philanthropist," and the unfinished poem, "For whom it is good to live in Russia." Nekrassov held his mother's memory in the deepest veneration and affection—witness the tender poem "Mother," written near the close of his life. The poet loved children, and wrote a Russian version of Mrs. E. B. Browning's "Cry of the Children." Like Turgenev, Nekrassov was an ardent sportsman. Above all, Nekrassov was the poet of the poor, whose hardships he knew so well.

PHILOLOGICAL. - November 6 - Rev. Prof. PHILOLOGICAL. — November 6 — Rev. Prof. Skeat in the chair. — Mr. I. Gollancz read a paper on the Scotch ablach, "a fool." His Hamlet researches had led him to the conviction that the Icelandic amlothi, "a fool"; the Aberdeen ablich, "a fool"; and ablach, "a carcase, a worthless person," were the same. The early mythical stories of Hamlet and Havelok became merged, and their names too. Havelok was the Scandinavian Anlaf Curan. Havelok became inerged, and their names too.

Havelok was the Scandinavian Anlaf Curan, of whose name there are twenty different forms—one "Aleifr," in Welsh, "Abloyc"; in Irish, "Amlaidhe, Amlaibh"; in a Middle Latin Chronicle, "Amalacus." "Amlaidhe" was "Amlothi" or Hamlet. The English form occurs in the "Wars of Alexander," where Darius's courtiers show him as an Amlaghe, "an ape, a dwarf"; and Porus, in his letter, says: "Thou Alexander, thou ape, thou 'Amlaghe' out of Greece."

Prof. Skeat then read a paper on a pseudo-Chaucer poem, formerly printed as part of another, with which it has nothing to do. He entitled it "To my Sovereign Lady," and attributed it to Lydgate.

SCIENCE.

THE proposal to erect a memorial to the late Sir John Pender and his associates in the laying of the first Atlantic cable has been shelved for the purpose of securing the co-operation of foreign nations and the Colonies. At the same time, it has been decided to make the scheme form part of a general commemoration in 1901, recording "the 'jubilee of international submarine telegraphy."

There is a plantation smack about the word "jubilee" which accords ill with the momentous occasions to which it is applied. In connexion with the austere festivals of science it sounds especially mean. Now that scientific anniversaries are becoming so common—we have had within a few weeks the centenary of vaccination and the jubilee of anaesthetics—some more dignified term is called for; one that conveys a lofty respect for a great man or a great discovery, not a hack word of the streets and the music-halls, redolent with associations of mis-christened infants.

The death is recorded of Hugo Gylden, the astronomer, for thirteen years Director of the observatory at Stockholm, and more recently appointed to the same office at Göttingen. Prof. Gylden was a native of Helsingfors, in Finland, and graduated at the university of that town. He studied astronomy under the two Struves, at the observatory of Pulkova, near St. Petersburg, entering there just about the time when the completed measurements of an are of the meridian had made the elder Struve famous. He was fifty-five at the time of his death.

An appointment is expected shortly to be made at Cambridge to the chair of surgery occupied by the late Sir George Humphry but no name is yet announced. Hitherto' the professorship has carried no salary, but, in accordance with the recent policy of the University, a small stipend of £200 or £300 will probably be attached to it in the future.

So civil an appeal has not often been made to the public as that which emanates from the office of the British School at Athens. The business of collecting extraneous funds has become so much a matter of competition that one is relieved to be let off with less than a box jostled under one's nose in the street. The British School at Athens is in itself an object worthy of support. It trains up students and artists in the very centre of ancient civilisation and art. Its excavations are

devoted to the increase of classical learning, and not to the kind of pillage which used to be so fashionable. But the plea which will operate most powerfully in its favour is that for want of funds it is ill able to hold up its head alongside the more liberally endowed schools of France, Germany, and America. At present money is needed to provide a college building. The other nations have long had one. Britain alone has none. The treasurer, who is empowered to receive subscriptions, is Walter Leaf, Esq., 6, Sussex-place, Regent's-park, N.W.

A CONSULAR report on the silk trade in China states that the production will be largely increased in the future by the adoption of a simple change which Chinese conservatism has only just allowed to come into operation. Hitherto the silk has been reeled by hand from living cocoons, and no more worms could be dealt with than the staff of workers could handle during the ten days between the completion of the cocoon and its destruction by the moth. With steam filatures, or winders, the cocoon is baked so as to kill the chrysalis, and the spinning can then go on indefinitely. The adoption of this improvement in China will seriously affect the industry in France and Italy, the two chief silk producing countries

American journals report the invention of a cheap method of manufacturing oxygen which promises to be important, if true. The process is, in itself, not a new one, but consists in the alternate formation and decomposition of manganate of soda, with simultaneous liberation of oxygen. Air is first blown through a heated mixture of caustic soda and black oxide of manganese, until the oxide is converted into manganate of soda, and the atmospheric oxygen is absorbed by the hydrate. Steam is then forced through instead of air, and the manganate of soda is once more resolved into the original factors out of which it was composed. The oxygen set free during the latter process is collected in the usual way. It does not appear how the main difficulty of this operation, which consists in the tendency of manganate of soda to become viscid under the action of steam, is overcome.

The scientific developments of the Victorian era form a topic that promises to be thoroughly ventilated during the coming year. As instalments of what may be expected, preparations are already on foot at Newcastle and at the Crystal Palace for exhibitions illustrating the scientific inventions of the last half century; and other places will follow suit. The air is charge!

with self-complacency, which finds an echo in such utterances as the inaugural address of Mr. Wolfe Barry, C.B., F.R.S., on taking the chair as president of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

"MATERIAL advances so remarkable, and so dependent upon engineering progress, that the meeting might with profit study the period from 1837 to the present time"; "far-reaching effects, not only upon the prosperity of these islands, but upon the world at large "-such are the themes which are to ring in our ears, already tingling with satisfaction. In his choice of illustrations Mr. Wolfe Barry was so moderate as to run a risk of understating the case; but that mattered little when the speaker and the audience were themselves responsible for so large a share of the progress and development. He began with railways, admitting somewhat regretfully that before Her Majesty inaugurated the millennium coupled with her name a few small lines had already intruded their abortive systems. The Stockton and Darlington, the Newcastle and Carlisle, the Liverpool and Manchester railways were opened previously to 1837, and were worked by locomotives. A few others employed rails and horses, But the trunk system of the present day, with its network of feeders and loops, is a creation entirely of the Victorian régime, and is one of its proudest boasts.

And if the progress made in locomotion by land has been so great, how immensely greater have been the strides in ocean transit! Prior to 1820, the American steamsailer Savannah had crossed the Atlantic in twenty-five days. But—glory be to the Victorian era!—it was not until 1838 that the Great Western made the first ocean trip by steam alone, and reduced by half, the distance between the old world and the new.

Such considerations are but the beginning of the story. Duplex and multiplex telegraphy, the telephone, the type-writer, the sewing-machine, the post-office, the ironclad, the quick-firing gun, scientific agriculture, and electric light and traction have altered the face of the world out of recognition since the last King's Majesty smiled upon us; and they again are but the cruder outlines. Invention, like science, has had to narrow its scope for want of worlds to conquer, and works rather with the micrometer than with the measuring rule. Except in regard to aërial navigation we see no immediate prospect of any sweeping change or improvement. Mankind has attained a degree of civilisation more complex than any which has gone before.

H. H. M.

THE THEATRE.

Who goes to the theatre? Some time ago a writer in the New Review having questioned certain of his friends, hazarded the remark that people of intellectual tastes and attainments do not go, or go very rarely, to the theatre in London. He was at once surrounded and borne to the earth by other writers, who explained to him, in that militant and trenchant manner which seems to be inseparable from this important subject, that he was an ignoramus, an idiot, and a fool. Very probably he was also called a rat. "What," said, or rather shouted, his opponents-"what about the galaxy"-I am sure they said galaxy -"of men and women eminent in all the arts and sciences who trample on one another "-a very life-like touch-" in their eagerness to be present at first nights?" What, indeed? The writer in the New Review, having painfully collected his disjecta membra, crept away and concerned himself with other matters.

Some few months since I began again to frequent first nights, and, having the galaxy in my mind, looked with furtive awe on my fellow-frequenters. I knew from the writings of another critic that at least one of them possessed an intellect to which Shakspere's afforded a painful contrast. And, lo! last Saturday I read that yet another critic prefers not to go to first nights because the audience is "fast"! Where is truth? I cannot believe the last-mentioned writer-even though he seems to claim infallibility on the simple ground of paying for his seat-but I confess that if he were right I should feel a trifle more at my ease than with the galaxy of arts and sciences.

THE truth I take to be that the majority of regular theatre-goers finds the average play on a level with its intelligence, and that a minority goes now and then to a play of special interest. That the average play appeals to intellectual people quá intellectual it is impossible to believe. There is, however, a small band, not necessarily unintellectual, whose interest in the theatre is independent of the plays, who love the theatre because it is the theatre, who watch small minutiae of the playing, to whom the artificial atmosphere is altogether congenial. For myself, without any pretensions to intellect, I maintain that a comparatively bad play bores me no more than a comparatively good play; the art of mimicry and the art of imagination, even incompetently presented, attract me irresistibly. I have often wasted hours over a thoroughly incompetent novel. And when imagination, however jejune, is supported by mimicry, however imperfect, and when, to boot, you have footlights and curtains and the rest of it, the occasion is, to me, always enjoyable—for a time at least. An extraordinarily good play attracts by itself, of course; an extraordinarily bad play is delightful, of course; but to me, and to those who feel with me, no play is necessarily a bore. It is to such people—since I take the freedom to write about the theatre at all—that I would like to address myself.

In the present condition of things it is unlikely that a "serious" play-a play of seriously intellectual interest - a play dealing with any complex problem of sociology in a serious spirit, can live on the English stage. The patronage of people who care for none of these things cannot be ignored. The "serious drama" has been a failure, we are told. I am not surprised. But there is another side to our regrets. Contemporary sociology is extremely complex: it is very much in the air; it is apt to be a little tedious. I believe that very few really intellectual people care about its exposition in the theatre. They would prefer a good comedy. It is for this that I lament the want of intellect on the stage. There is no good contemporary comedy. In the last ten years I have seen but one original comedy that seemed to me really first-rate-it was "Beau Austin," and was not a success.

But there is no reason in the present condition of things why plays on lines of broader convention than comedy and the serious drama should not be good and successful. There is our hope. And, accordingly, we have had several excellent melodramas and more than one good farce. There is no reason in the world why an intellectual person should not enjoy either, unless it be want of imagination or want of humour-qualities in which the intellectual person has been occasionally deficient. At the present time, there are excellent melodramas-of the fearless old fashion-at the Princess's and the Adelphi, and excellent melodramas—of a slightly superior tone at the St. James's and the Haymarket. There is a capital farce at the Royalty, and another at the Comedy. Let us, therefore, be cheerful.

The only production of interest to record in the past week is that of Westland Marston's "Donna Diana," by Mr. Bourchier, at the Prince of Wales's. Its interest was mainly historical. It is called a poetical comedy, the poetry consisting in the fact that it is written in very inferior blank-verse, and the comedy is the idea of the subjection of a proud woman by a man's feigning indifference to her. Somehow one finds such a

motive rather crude nowadays, faintly disagreeable; one knows not why. At least it leads to a monotonous play. to the repetition of substantially the same situation-a monotony increased by a sub-plot running on the same lines: But it was an opportunity for some excellent playing. Miss Violet Vanbrugh played a princess disgusted theoretically by love and universal homage, and gradually won by pretended indifference. The comedy of it was well within her scope, and she played it with intention and finish. I think she gave even too great intensity to the hollow passion of the last part of the play, but it was a veritable tour de force of playing. And she wore a green dress, with her left hand smothered in rings to match it-the most brilliant stage dress I have seen for ages. Since I saw Miss Irene Vanburgh in "The Liar," I have had great faith in her comic powers, and look forward to seeing her in a better part than the waiting-maid in "Donna Diana"; she played it most mirthfully. Mr. Elliot was ingenious and careful in the part of an intriguing secretary. There is no one else to mention, except Mr. Bourchier himself.

Mr. Bourchier is a refutation of the fallacy that it is injurious to a professional actor to begin as an amateur. If there were a school of professional acting in England, that might be true; but there is not, and an actor's experience as an amateur is quite as likely to profit him as the experience of a super. One often hears "the amateur" spoken of as though his taste were a crime. Whereas it proves at least some enthusiasm for his calling if he should decide subsequently on acting as a profession. Mr. Bourchier has improved very much, to be sure, since I saw him as an amateur, but his improvement has been by no means a process of unlearning. At present he is an excellent actor of light comedy, with a style and a sense of humour. He played the comic part of his character in "Donna Diana" with great skill, minus a tendency to run his sentences into one another, but was slightly ineffectual in his indications of passion. He had one great opportunity, where, having declared his passion, he is obliged at once to pretend it was a joke, and he made excellent use of it.

The absence of the particular is the opportunity of the general. Sometimes this article will consist of a chronicle of new plays. When they are source I must discourse at large, and propose next week to make a remark or two about acting.

ART.

It is not easy to class Ford Madox Brown, or to interpret the effect of his paintings. "Did I attempt to fix his place in the ranks of the Immortals," says Mr. Hueffer, his biographer's and grandson, "it would indeed be a high one." There are others who would conduct Madox Brown to a seat somewhere near Egg and Maclise. The world quarrelled about him, and with him, during his life. It still quarrels over him, now that "he has outsoared the shadow of our night." Which must always be the fate of the strong man who, by setting up conventions of his own, discomforts the easual eye.

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IF Ford Madox Brown had cared for publicity, it would have pleased him could he have had prophetic vision of this autumn of 1896. A loan collection of his works hangs at the New Gallery side by side with examples of the arts and crafts he loved. His biography, of nearly six hundred pages, crowded with reproductions of his best pictures, lies upon many tables. "Jesus Washes Peter's Feet" is at the National Gallery, and round the walls of the Manchester Town Hall in solemn sequence run his frescoes. The public, of whom in life Madox Brown was just a little contemptuous, agree to differ about his pictures. To A. they are a delight, to B. a distress, and C. has never heard of them. He drew badly on occasions, and his pictures are often composed no better than a crowd in the streets on Lord Mayor's Day. The duty, the delightful duty, of winnowing the full harvest of his roving eye never seems to have occurred to him. From Madox Brown the superfluous and the essential received equal attention - an attention that never flagged. Some of his pictures may be likened to the crowded and variegated window of a draper's shop. Each article has its particular form, colour, and use, and each, in its own way, makes for adornment; but what lady would pin the entire window into her hat?

And yet, in spite of the Madox Brown convention that people may be any height, as in "The Pretty Baa-Lambs," and that a canvas need not contain one square inch of nothing on which to rest the eye, as in "Work," it remains that, to many people, his pictures have a singular and lasting charm. Their colour is fine, the workmanship is extremely capable, the painting of

details is often inimitable, and, above all, one is always conscious of a sincere and honest personality behind the picture. paint what they feel, others what they see. Ford Madox Brown painted what he thought. Therein lies the reason of his narrowed influence. The ordinary painter would not dream of making pictures from subjects in Dr. Smiles's books. Yet it was such a task Madox Brown set himself in "Work," over which he spent eleven years. His own description of the picture occupies six solid pages of Mr. Hueffer's book. "Work" is curious, interesting, well wrought, if you will, and the colouring is fine; but if in Art selection, composition, and reticence mean anything, "Work" is not a good picture.

Nobody was ever bored before a Madox Brown picture. The figures in "The Pretty Baa-Lambs" are a foot more than divinely tall; but one does not mind the disproportions-much. So with the worried "Cromwell on his Farm," the unnatural "Expulsion of the Danes from Manchester," and the crowded "Chaucer at the Court of Edward III." The trained critic cannot quite accept these; and yet he lingers-to approve. Why? Is it not because of Madox Brown's magnificent sincerity? His overelaboration was, after all, only the effect of a determination to put his utmost into every work to which he put his hand. This fine quality became the habit of his work, from oil pictures to cartoons for stained glass. It calls to you from that fine fragment "Take Your Son, Sir"; it calls from his noble "Jesus Washes Peter's Feet" in the National Gallery.

Mr. Hueffer has much to say about Madox Brown's enemies; but, when all things are rounded off and revealed, it will surely be found that his chief foe was himself. How could a man escape unpopularity who stigmatised other people's work as "clotted nonsense?" who would "end a sentence by such a phrase as a 'cursed fool like So-and-So?'" and who was "scarcely able to mention an Academician as such without the addition of an abusive epithet?"

Or Mr. Hueffer's biography our only complaint is that it is too long, and overcrowded with details. Madox Brown was an interesting personality, but the story of his life and art could have been told in one hundred and fifty compact pages. The book gains nothing from the inclusion of such paragraphs as the following, in which it abounds:

"After its completion, towards the end of March, Madox Brown visited England, staying with his uncle Madox at Foots Cray, and his future brother-in-law Richard, afterwards Sir Richard Bromley, K.C.B., at Meopham, in the county of Kent";

or such trivialities as this from the painter's diary:

"11th.—Bad toothache at night. Began work. Found the lay figure would wet, as it rained, and if required for many days might be much deteriorated, so made a substitute out of a child's chair and some old cushions, with the head of the lay figure."

Mr. Hueffer has eaught the habit of overelaboration from his grandfather; but if a good deal that is unessential is included, nothing essential is omitted. The book is beautifully printed, and the sixty and odd illustrations are excellently reproduced.

Madox Brown was never a happy man. He might almost be called an unfortunate man. What honours he just missed! He nearly started the "plein air" school in France; he nearly founded the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood; he nearly anticipated the "Arts and Crafts Society"; in "Jesus Washes Peter's Feet" he nearly painted a masterpiece; his frescoes in the Manchester Town Hall are nearly a success; and he nearly had a perfect patron and buyer of his pictures in Mr. Plint. The following letter referring to the completion of the picture of "Work" indicates to what degree Mr. Plint fell short of being the perfect patron:

"November 14, 1896.

"My dear Sir,—I have your most interesting letter. Could you introduce both Carlyle and Kingsley, and change one of the four fashionable young ladies into a quiet, earnest, holy-looking one, with a book or two and tracts? I want this put in, for I am much interested in this work myself, and know those who are. Now I wish you to be fully satisfied in your own mind. Think the matter over, and excuse me asking you."

Or the little company of artists who move through the pages of this book, most have gone forth into the night. When the aesthetic history of the period is written it will be found how great an influence, decorative and pictorial, these men exercised upon their period-the period which saw the end of antimacassars and waxen flowers, and the beginnings of art muslins and blue china. To understand how these men lifted and nourished the arts one need only compare the present with the days before the Grosvenor Gallery was thought of, or Morris had built himself a shop in Oxford. This must be our consolation if in reading this volume the lights, in Stevenson's phrase, do seem coessionally a little turned down.

L. H.

^{*} Ford Madox Brown. A Record of His Life and Works. By Ford M. Hueffer. (Longmans.)

THE BOOK MARKET.

WE shall give in this column, from week to week, a report of the sales of books in London and the provinces compiled from returns sent to us by our numerous correspondents among booksellers. These returns will form, we believe, a very clear and interesting indication of the varying tastes of bookbuyers. Further, we shall, from time to time, make special inquiries into all matters affecting the book trade, and give our readers the results.

The letters now before us show that the bookselling season has fairly begun. Books are being produced in battalions. is wisdom, however, in the comment of Messrs. Truslove & Hanson, of Oxfordstreet, who, in reporting to us an improve-ment in trade, remark that "far too many commonplace books are being published." Our own shelves bear witness to this, and the reports of our correspondents show how curiously limited in numbers are the books which the public thinks good enough to buy Thus we print reports from the Strand and Oxford-street, in London, from Cambridge and Oxford, and from Glasgow and Dublin. In all these places the books which hold the field are Sentimental Tommy, The Grey Man, Sir George Tressady, Kate Carnegie, and one or two others. This is what one would expect. The surprise is in the lack of surprises. One would like to find that Glasgow had made a discovery of its own, and was a little mad over a book of which Mr. Denny, of the Strand, had stocked only a few copies, or it would be piquant if a twenty-thousand-edition book had fallen flat in Manchester. The coldness of Manchester would make for a saner criticism. As it is, the variations in our lists form an insecure foundation for any very strong conclusions. The Scottish school of writers still prevails, though Messrs. W. & R. Holmes, of Glasgow, report that "the demand for the works of Maclaren and Barrie is decreasing." The tide may not turn yet, but the day cannot be far distant when the public will want English stuff. Under Biography and History it is not surprising to find that Mr. Laughton's Nelson Memorial is in demand. Mr. Sloane's Napoleon is not therefore neglected. In the domain of new poetry, Mr. Kipling's Secen Seas carries all before it; yet not all, for Mr. Davidson's New Ballads also assert them-

The rush for Messrs. Smith & Elder's new two-volume edition of Browning, published at fifteen shillings, is significant of the poet's hold on the nation, while the demand for new e litions of Shakespeare and Burns is another sign of health. Nevertheless, the new poet -provided he be a poet-was never so sure of a welcome.

We are not reporting this week on Theology. Those of our correspondents who have noticed this omission in the inquiries, of which the answers are printed on this page, will accept our assurance that this subject will be in no way neglected. One of our correspondents remarks that there is no class of books for which the demand

is more sustained. Indeed, as Messrs. Cornish Brothers, of Birmingham, remind us, "the bookseller lives on Fiction and Theology."

BOOK SALES.

The following tables show what books have been most in demand in various places during the past week:

LONDON (STRAND).

FICTION. The Grey Man. Crockett. Sir George Tressady. Mrs. Ward. Limitations, E. F. Benson. Cass Braccio. F. M. Crawford, The Face of the Waters. Mrs. Steele. Under the Red Robe. S. Weyman.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. The Nelson Memorial. Laughton. Gibbon's Decline and Fall. Bury's Ed. Vol. II.
My Long Life. Mrs. Cowden Clarke. Charlotte Brontë and her Circle. C. K. Shorler. Napoleon. W. M. Sloane. The Balkans (Stories of Nations). Miller.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. New Ballads. Davidson. Browning's Works, new 2 vol. ed. Songs for Little People. N.rm in Gale.

TRAVEL. Through the Sub-Arctic Forest. Pike.

BELLES-LETTRES. Aucassin and Nicolette. A. Lang.
The Complete Angler. Illust. Sullivan,
The Studio (Winter Number). Gutter Snipes. Phil May.

LONDON (OXFORD STREET). FICTION.

Sir George Tressady. Mrs. Ward. Tne Grey Man. Crockett. Limitations. Benson.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. Sunshine and Storms in Rhodesia. Selous, Story of My Life. A. J. C. Hare, Napoleon. W. M. Sloane. Life of Lockhart. A. Lang. The Nelson Memorial. Laughton.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. The Seven Seas. Kipling. Browning, new 2 vol. ed. New Ballads. Davidson.

TRAVEL.

Girl's Wanderings in Hungary. Browning. On Southern English Roads. Hissey,

RELLES-LETTRES. Colour of Life. Mrs. Meynell,

OXFORD.

FICTION. The Heart of Princess Osra, A. Hope, Soldier Tales. Kipling. Sentimental Tommy, Barris. Sir George Tressady. Mrs. Ward, Dolly Dialogues. A. Hope,

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. The Balance of Power, 1715-178). H. Hassall, Life of Archbishop Magee.
The Nelson Memorial. Laughton. Greek Constitutional History. Granidge.
Introduction to History of Religion. Jevons,
Life of Napoleon. Vol. I. W. M. Sloane, Boswell's Johnson, 6 vol. ed.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. The Seven Seas. Kipling. Browning, new 2 vol. ed. Paradise of Poetry. Beeching. Tragic Drama of the Greeks. I sigh.

TRAVEL. Sunshine and Travel in Rhodesia. Selons.

BELLES-LETTRES. Gaston de Latour. Walter Pater.

CAMBRIDGE.

FICTION.

Sentimental Tommy. Barrie, The Grey Man. Crockett. Kate Carnegie. Ian Maclaren, Limitations. E. F. Benson.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. Life of Napoleon. Vol. I. W. M. Sloane, Decline and Fall of Rome, Bury's Edition. Vol. II.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. The Seven Seas. Kipling.
Tragic Dram of the Greeks. Haigh. Browning, new 2 vol. ed. New Ballads. Davidson.

GLASCOW.

FICTION.

Sentimental Tommy. Barrie. Kate Carnegie. Ian Maclaren. All Marie Corelli's Works. The Grey Man. Crockett. Sir George Tressady. Mrs. Ward.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. Joseph Thomson, African Explorer. Hist. Dumfries and Galloway. Sir Herbort Maxwell. Hist. England. Macaulay. Franc's Revolution, Carlyle (Centenary Ed.)

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. The Seven Seas. Kipling. Barrack-room Ballads. Kipling. Browning, new 2 vol. ed. New Ballads, Davidson.

First Crossing of Greenland. Nansen. Through Maori Land. Jos. Thomson. Palestine, Travel Studies. Roy, A. Sutherland.

EDINBORO".

FICTION.

Sentimental Tommy. Barrie. Kate Carnegie. Ian Maclaren. The Land of the Leal. David Lyall. Boswell's Johnson, 6 vols, new ed.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY. History of Dumfries and Gallo vay. Sir H. Maxwell. The Lady Ecclesia. Rev. Dr. Matheson. McGibbon and Ross's Hist. Ecclesiastical Architecture. Boswell's Life of Johnson.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. Browning, new 2 vol. e 1. New Ballads, Davidson. Songs for Little People. Norman Gale.

BELLES-LETTRES. Fors Clavigera, Ruskin,

DUBLIN.

FICTION.

Sentimental Tommy. Barrie. The Grey Man. Crockett. Dr. Nikola, Guy Boothby. Ministers of Brae Farm. R. N. Carey.

BIJGRAPHY AND FICTION. Life of Archbishop Magee,
Story of My Life, A. J. C. Hare,
Charlotte Brontë and her Circle, C. K. Shorter,
Life of Napoleon, Vol. I. W. M. Sloane.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA. The Seven Seas. Kipling. New Balla 's. Davidson. Browning, new 2 vol. ed.

TRAVEL.

Over the Andes. May Commilin. A Cycle of Cathay. W. A. P. Martin, Running the Blockade. Taylor.

MUSIC.

THE thirty-ninth season of the Popular Concerts began on Monday evening. Mr. A. Chappell has issued a prospectus in which he promises some interesting additions to the "already voluminous repertory" of this institution. The number of works performed since the establishment of these concerts is certainly a large one, yet it must not be forgotten that many seem to have gone hopelessly out of fashion. There was a time when the music of Haydn, Mozart, Dusseb and Hummel was often played and enjoyed, and when Mendelssohn was held in special favour. But a change came, and one all the stronger in that it was gradual. Schumann and Brahms, Dvoràk and Tschaikowsky, have supplanted some of the old masters. The music of Schumann was at first considered extravagant, and some of it incomprehensible; now the composer ranks almost as a classic. The influence of Wagner in the world of opera would scarcely have become so great, but for certain other forces acting at the same time and in the same direction; of these, Schumann's music was one of the most powerful.

Among the novelties announced by Mr. Chappellare the two Sonatas for clarionet and pianoforte (Op. 129, Nos. 1 and 2) by Brahms -novelties, however, only so far as the Popular Concerts are concerned, for they were introduced a season or two back by Miss Fanny Davies; a Quartet in F for strings (Op. 96) by Dvoràk, a work founded, like his "From the New World" Symphony, to a considerable extent upon negro melodies; a Quartet for strings (Op. 17) by Sgambati, described, somewhat pleonastically, as "highly interesting and characteristic," since if it displays character it is sure to prove interesting; a Quartet and Sonata by Fauré; and Quartets for strings by Dr. Stanford, Tschaikowsky, and Grieg. The last-named composer has only written one work of the kind, and it certainly well deserves a hearing.

Ox Monday evening the programme contained nothing new. The reading of the Beethoven Quartet in E flat (Op. 74) was clear, but cold; this was particularly the case with the fine slow movement. The leader was Mme. Soldat, a pupil of Joachim, who paid a visit to London some few seasons back. It is natural, and at any rate charitable, to suppose that the lady was nervous; but I am rather inclined to think that although gifted with intelligence, and in possession of excellent technique, she lacks strong emotional power. Time, however, will show. Mr. Borwick's rendering of

Chopin's B minor Sonata was in many, I cannot say all, respects admirable. The playing was beautifully finished and the reading thoroughly sound, but something was lacking-that something, so difficult to define, which makes one feel that all the notes of Chopin's music reveal really little of the soul of which they are the embodiment. Mr. Borwick well deserved the applause which greeted him at the close, and for an encore gave a Schumann transcription of Paganini's Caprice in E. The programme concluded with Schumann's pianoforte Trio in G minor (Op. 110), a work which, although it does not represent the master at his strongest, is nevertheless full of interest. Mme. Blanche Marchesi was the vocalist, and by her intelligent and expressive singing charmed her audience. She sang a fine song from Spontini's "Vestale" and songs by Handel, Schumann, and Godard, also, as encore, a Lullaby by Mozart.

WHEN Mr. Eugen d'Albert, as a youth, left England, he was a pianist of promise and a composer of great promise. It is now specially as a pianist that he is attracting attention, and he has, without doubt, exceeded the highest expectations; he is now to be ranked among the few players who by special merit have distinguished themselves even from many who stand high in the ranks of pianism. In the matter of technique, Mr. d'Albert, so far as I can make out from reading, is a kind of Tausig redicivus; while in that of intelligence he may be likened unto the late Dr. Bülow. A pianist thus gifted is well, though not fully, equipped. There remains that subtle power by which a player in interpreting great classical works is able to reveal the very soul of the music so as to make one forget for the moment its intellectuality. There are moments, as for instance in the first three movements of Beethoven's Sonata in E flat (Op. 31, No. 3), which Mr. d'Albert gave at his recital at St. James's Hall on Saturday afternoon, in which that power seems almost lacking to him, and yet other moments, as in the "Waldstein" last season, when he seems to possess it in large measure. The pianist played a Suite of his own composition. The form of the various movements is old, but the style of writing modern and showy. The Gigue appeared to me by far the best number: it is exceedingly brilliant, but solid and skilful.

The Bayreut announced. It is the firm of the public, must be trying to a player, and prevent him from displaying his highest qualities. I am therefore glad to learn that, on the 24th of this month, Mr. d'Albert will eleventh hour,

give a Beethoven recital, at which he intends to perform five of the later Sonatas. Here, then, will be an admirable opportunity for him and for those who have to judge him. If he does not completely convince some who can remember Rubinstein in his palmiest days, he will, I am sure, give a recital both interesting and profitable.

Dr. Stanford's Quartet for strings, No. 3 in D minor (Op. 64), MS., was performed for the first time in London at Mr. Gompertz's first "String Quartet" concert at the small Queen's Hall, on Wednesday evening. The opening Allegro would improve on second hearing, but I fear the same cannot be said of the Finale. The two middle movements—a graceful Allegrette and a dramatic Adagio—are far more successful; they are highly characteristic and elever. The whole work is remarkable for its clearness of form and concise treatment of material; it takes only half an hour in performance.

Next week, the Lamoureux Orchestral Concerts at the Queen's Hall will attract general attention. A short time ago M. Lamoureux came, conducted his own orchestra, and conquered. The public, therefore, are looking forward to a musical treat. With one exception, each programme contains as pièce de résistance a Symphony, also novelties-so far as London is concerned-by French composers; Mr. Manns, however, forestalls M. Lamoureux, and performs, for the first time in England, M. Vincent d'Indy's Légende Symphonique, "La forêt Enchantée," this afternoon at the Crystal Palace. We do well here in England to encourage native art, but it is highly profitable to learn what our near neighbours are contributing towards musical art. Apropos of French music, I may mention an excellent little book just sent to me from Paris. It is the first volume of Le Cycle Berlioz, a series of musical guides to the art-work of Hector Berlioz. M. J. G. Prud'homme is the author. The statements and analyses are sound, the style is clear, and the compass and the price (three francs) are moderate. This first volume deals with the "Damnation de Faust"; later numbers of the series, treating of less familiar works of the French master, will be specially welcome.

The Bayreuth Festival of 1897 is already announced. It will consist of three cycles of the "Ring," and eight performances of "Parsifal." "Early application for seats is advisable," says Mr. A. Schulz-Curtius; in 1876 a seat could easily be obtained at the eleventh hour.

J. S. S.

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MOST INGENIOUS THING OF THE HOUR.



Editors

"TRUTH," August 15th, 1895.

There is no limit to the ingenuity of the Americans in improving upon the ordinary paraphernalia of daily life. The other day I found my office table provided with a set of new editorial pencils-red, blue, and black. Being struck by something unusual in their appearance, I made enquiries and discovered that they represented the latest Yankee notion in lead pencils, the lead being mounted in a stick of tightly-packed paper instead of wood. The paper is lail on in layers, and the advantage of the arrangement is that when the point is broken or worn down, you tear off one layer of paper, and a new and perfectly symmetrical point is instantly produced without any further process of sharpening. This is called the "Blaisdell" pencil, and if Blaisdell is the inventor, I hope he may make a fortune out of it.

"THE QUEEN," August 10th.

New self-sharpening pencil. At first sight it does not appear to differ from the ordinary lead pencil, but on closer inspection it will be found that the lead, instead of being case I in cedar, is contained in a compressed paper covering so tightly rolled as to resemble wood in appearance and in hardness. When the pencil requires sharpening, all that has to be done is to break the outside layer of paper with a penknife or even a pin, take hold of the strip thus disclosed, unwind a few turns, and pull the strip off, when the lead appears ready or use. It will at once be seen what an improvement this is upon the old laborious process of pencil sharpening, and how much less extravagant with regard to the consumption of the lead, which cannot snap off when thus treated.

"WESTMINSTER GAZETTE,' August 10th.

Has the death day of the eadar pencil arrived? It may be so. At any rate, the Blaisdell self-sharpening paper pencil is an ingenious innovation. In appearance this American new comer is like our old friends, but the place of the wood is taken by tightly-rolled paper wound in short strips, the width of each strip being marked down the side of the pencil by a slight perforation. When the pencil gets worn down one of these strips is torn off, and in this way a fresh piece of the lead is made available. It is decidedly an ingenious idea.

"BLACK AND WHITE," August 10th.

The "Blaisdell Self-Sharpening Paper Pencil" is a remarkably smart contrivance. The lead is encased in paper, which can easily be unrolled when a fresh point is required.

"THE LADY," August 8th.

A self-sharpening paper pencil does not sound a very promising invention, but anyone who becomes possessed of one of the Blaisdell variety will acknowledge at once that it is a very ingenious little article. These pencils need no knife to sharpen them, as, by simply tearing off a little roll of paper at the end, a new-point appears. They are made in black, red, or blue, for office work, and are well worthy of a trial.

"LONDON MORNING LEADER," August 8th, 1895.

The ordinary black lead pencil in i's wooden case if of good quality does not promise much scope to the inventive genius thirsting to discover a real improvement, but a clever American firm from Philadelphia have a design in lead pencils that deserves popularity for its ingenuity. The lead is as usual, but round it is wound a thin strip of paper to the ordinary pencil thickness and slightly notched at intervals, so that a small portion can be removed at a time as the lead wears down, producing an ever sharpened pencil, always in working order. The new device is known as the "Blaisdell Self-Sharpening Paper Pencil."

"THE EVENING NEWS AND POST" (London), August 10th.

One of the latest inventions that tend to make literary life better worth living is the Blaisdell Paper Pencil, brought out by an enterprising Philadelphia company. Penknives, blackened thumbs and unparliamentary language when the point snaps short at an important moment are now at a discount. All that the writer or reporter has to do is to insert a pin in a spot indicated on the pencil stem, and, lo! a little roll of paper unfolds like a diminutive shaving, or a released curl, and a fresh all ready sharpened point appears to gladden his eyes and stimulate his harassed brain.

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